

Heath plane in near miss at airport

Mr Edward Heath was on board a Dan Air HS 748 airliner which was involved yesterday in a near miss with two Nato fighters (Our Transport Correspondent writes). According to one report, the Dutch F-16 jets were flying at 800ft across Yeoman airport, Leeds, just after Mr Heath's plane took off.

Diplomat faces secrets charge

Rhona Jane McIntyre Ritchie, aged 29, the recently appointed first secretary at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, was charged with passing information under the Official Secrets Act when she appeared at Highbury Road Magistrates' Court, on Thursday. She was remanded on bail until April 27.

Prosser warders are cleared

Three prison officers accused of murdering Barry Prosser in a cell at Winson Green prison, Birmingham, in August, 1980, were acquitted at Leicester Crown Court after a 15-day trial. All three had pleaded not guilty.

Half-day strikes by teachers

Teachers in England and Wales are to hold a series of half-day strikes in protest against their employers' refusal of arbitration on their pay claim.

Opec cutback

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in Vienna to set a production ceiling of 18 million barrels per day in a bid to hold crude prices to present levels.

Arabs strike

Tension among Arabs in the occupied West Bank mounted and many began a 72-hour protest strike against the latest clampdown by Israeli military authorities who banned three Arab newspapers.

US accused

Nicaragua has accused the United States of plotting to invade its territory and has asked the United Nations Security Council to meet urgently to consider "this grave situation."

Captain blamed

The captain of the coaster that ran aground off Cornwall last December, leading to the death of 16 people, contributed to his own death, the Penleev coroner jury decided.

Tax advice

Why pay more to the taxman than necessary? Family Money looks at ways of minimising your tax liability at the end of the tax year approaches.

Alan Badel dies

Alan Badel, the actor probably best known for his BBC television role as the Count of Monte Cristo, died suddenly yesterday from a heart attack, aged 58.

Slump in Reagan popularity

President Reagan's popularity after 14 months in office has fallen below President Carter's after the same period, according to a New York Times CBS News poll. Most Americans disagree with the President's unyielding stance on taxes and defence spending.

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Arnold Wesker joins this debate on the Hitler play; a likely king-maker at Hillhead; explorer heroes past and present; lunch with Andy Warhol.

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Three-year ban on England rebel cricketers

By Our Sports Staff

The English cricketers playing in matches against a South African team, under the captaincy of Graham Gooch of Essex, have been banned from Test cricket for three years.

This was announced at Lord's yesterday by Mr George Mann, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). He added that there had been a unanimous vote among the 21 members of the board, 17 representing the counties, two the minor counties and two the MCC.

A report drawn up by the executive committee of the TCCB set out the reasons for this decision, which Mr Mann saw as a "tragedy in the case of players like Gooch." It is thought that any players appearing regularly for England in those three years might have expected to earn £50,000 in addition to their usual county income.

But there was no alternative. The players in South Africa, except perhaps for the Australians, were not in the World Cup and New Zealand at home in 1983, Pakistan and New Zealand away, West Indies at home in 1984, and India away.

The TCCB calculated that the cost in this country of the series against India and Pakistan was cancelled, would be about £2m. Neither India nor Pakistan had openly declared

their unwillingness to come if players in South Africa were included in England Test teams, but this was the TCCB's clear understanding.

The board had considered the legal aspects and believed they were not in the same vulnerable position as they were in the case of the Kerry Packer had changed. Gooch and the players had been warned by letter some months ago of the possible consequences of accepting contracts in South Africa.

Mr Peter Cooke, the tour manager, said in Cape Town that the players would not comment publicly on the issue before the tour ended but Gooch said this morning, before the news came through: "What have I done wrong? I am a professional cricketer with a right to a living."

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, said in a statement: "I welcome the decision by the Test and County Cricket Board. This is a major step forward. It is in the spirit of the Gleneagles Agreement and reflects what Commonwealth leaders expect of their sporting bodies. It will have significant effect in strengthening Commonwealth and international sport. These are always difficult decisions and there can be no question that this is an important stand on principle."

Mr Sam Ramsamy, the chairman of the South African National Olympic Committee (SANROC), felt the TCCB should have gone further by placing an indefinite Test ban on the rebels. "The statement by the TCCB, although not completely acceptable, is nevertheless a step in the right direction. It falls short of the assurance given to the Board of Control for Cricket in India that the TCCB would not select players who would be eligible for selection for England."

Further reaction, page 17

Smell of success in Jenkins camp

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Glasgow

Mr Roy Jenkins, Social Democrat/Alliance candidate in the Glasgow Hillhead, election, believes that house-to-house visits by his party workers in recent weeks have recorded considerable evidence that previously undecided voters are ready to support him.

Although some Alliance canvassers are inexperienced, there is supporting evidence for Mr Jenkins from workers for other parties. Each candidate yesterday was making guarded claims to victory, but confidence among the SDP and Liberal teams was higher than in rival camps.

It was boasted on Thursday night when 600 people attended a meeting at a school hall to hear Dr David Owen, Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers and Mr Jenkins speak. Another 400 people sat or stood outside for more than an hour while the four SDP leaders came out in turn to speak and answer questions.

Mr Edward Heath, for the Conservatives, attracted 800 people and a noisy demonstration for Labour, 300 to simultaneous meetings, from an electorate of 40,000. There is a high level of interest in political argument in Glasgow and the questioning, mainly on economic management but frequently on defence and devolution, was invariably shrewd.

With four relatively strong candidates small shifts of support in the final days could be decisive. The figure whose



Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington welcoming Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and his wife Hannelore at RAF Benson, near Oxford, yesterday (Page 5).

Mugging victims 10pc Asian

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

A high proportion of the victims of mugging, robbery and violent theft in London originate in the Indian subcontinent, according to statistics released to *The Times* by Scotland Yard.

The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that of the 18,763 such offences committed last year, 822 per cent of the victims were European, 10.8 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction, 3.6 per cent of African or West Indian origin and 3.4 per cent others, such as Arab or Chinese.

Although there are no consistent figures for 1977, a survey of housing, carried out by the Department of the Environment, estimated that 85.9 per cent of the population of Greater London was European, compared with 5 per cent African or West Indian by origin, 5 per cent others, and only 4.1 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction.

The tally of victims revealed to *The Times* on the authority of Mr Gilbert Kelland, Assistant Commissioner, shows the other side of a controversial London press conference last week.

He said then that the Yard was concerned that there had been a 34 per cent increase in offences of robbery and violent theft in London last year, bringing the total to 18,763 cases. Particular criticism followed the disclosure that 55 per cent of assaults had been identified as "of coloured appearance."

A specific inquiry by *The Times* on victims was considered by Scotland Yard for two days while the figures were collated. They were then released, along with a refusal to answer any questions on them.

Unlike last week's figures for ethnic appearance of assaults, a breakdown of the victims' origins for public consumption was not asked for by Mr Kelland to be appropriate. The Yard also refused to release information on the "racial spread" of assaults.

The Home Office was informed before Scotland Yard released the victim figures. They were given in seven categories: White-skinned European, 14,557 offences, 77.6 per cent; dark-skinned European, 1,457 offences, 7.8 per cent; black-skinned or West Indian, 678 (3.6 per cent); Indo-Pakistani or Bangladeshi, 2,021 (10.8 per cent); Chinese or Japanese, 167 (0.9 per cent); Arab, 129 (0.7 per cent); not known, 353, (1.9 per cent).

In January, the annual rate of increase had been 12 per cent and the good figures raised hopes that inflation could be down to single figures by the spring.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, said the figures showed the country is now seeing the benefit of more reasonable pay increase and fast productivity growth.

The biggest contributor to the drop in inflation in February was the falling petrol price, and the withdrawal of supplementary rate demands in London and the West Midlands.

Some benefit will be lost from dearer fares on London Transport this weekend and petrol prices which went up because of the Budget. However, because the Chancellor put up taxes on petrol, drink and tobacco by less than 1981, the annual inflation rate may drop again in March.

The Treasury's forecast that inflation would be running at 9 per cent in the final quarter of this year looks slightly pessimistic. Productivity went up very sharply in industry last year, so that wage costs in Britain only rose 21 per cent between December, 1980 and December, 1981. Table, page 15

Anderton censured by his own police authority

From John Chartres, Manchester

ficially to his own police authority.

Interviewed after the meeting of the Police Act, 1964, his committee could only take steps to have a chief constable removed if it seemed he was not running his force properly, and such steps could only be taken in conjunction with the Home Secretary.

Mr Kelly added: "Some of us do think Mr Anderton would be better employed getting on with the job of running his police force instead of making speeches and statements to the press." He said that legal advice would probably also be sought to see whether Mr Anderton's earlier remarks were defamatory.

Mr Kelly and his deputy chairman, Mrs Gabriel Cox, who had earlier been involved in sharp personal exchanges with Mr Anderton, indicated that the committee would have to discuss the next steps, possibly including a reference to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home

Secretary, if Mr Anderton did not comply with the demand for a clarification of his remarks.

The meeting, attended by 28 of the 30 members of the committee, was called primarily to discuss the deployment of up to 300 police officers at a cost of more than £100,000 to guard the strike-bound Laurence Scott factory when the management was proposing to remove machinery and when, according to Mr Anderton, there was a strong possibility of public disorder.

The first snub for the chief constable came when a resolution proposed by Mr Kelly stating that his deployment represented "overreaction" was carried by 16 votes to 11.

Mr Anderton was involved in direct confrontations with Mrs Cox, who has been one of his most outspoken critics since Labour took control of Greater Manchester Council last May and two months before the Moss Side riots.

During the discussion on the Laurence Scott affair Mr Anderton said that Mrs Cox had "been working very hard in the area to canvass opinion against the police."

A Mrs Cox, a schoolteacher in Moss Side, said she took exception to the chief constable's continuing slur. She said she had once visited Openshaw at the invitation of local people to learn what they had to say about the police.

Mrs Cox accused the chief constable of instigating the bad relations between himself and the committee by his frequent speeches and press statements. Mr Anderton was heard to say: "Robbie."

The official announcement of Sir Kenneth Newman's appointment as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in succession to Sir David McNee is expected next week.

Mr Kelly: Seeking legal advice.

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Churches want controls on test-tube births

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The Church of England and Britain's nonconformist churches have given their approval to fertilisation outside the womb, providing the sex and spent come from the couple concerned, but want greater control over artificial insemination by donor (AID).

They have added their voice to the demands for a public inquiry into the ethical implications of test-tube babies and the increased use of AID.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, Mr Ian Kennedy, former Reich Lecturer and Reader in Law at King's College London, and other senior academics called last month for an expanded debate on the issues.

The British Medical Association has set up its own working party but the churches want a wider inquiry.

In a report to be published tomorrow the Free Church Federal Council and the British Council of Churches deliver their most comprehensive statement on the issues surrounding human reproduction for 20 years.

The churches condemn "surrogate motherhood," the process by which a woman conceives and bears a child for another childless couple, and say it should be legally banned. They predict that it could lead to baby sales, which should also be illegal, they say.

The report, produced by a 15-man working party, chaired by the Rev. Peter Bael, Dean of Durham, says a decision to remain childless can be a valid choice within a Christian marriage. Equally it is acceptable for infertile couples who want children to seek medical help. But not all

means available to them are morally justifiable. The limits are transgressed in surrogate motherhood because the prenatal relationship between mother and baby are disrupted and the link between biological and social parenthood deliberately broken. "It is to reduce procreation to nothing more than a biological process."

Similar objections rule out the practice of "womb leasing" where a woman with a healthy womb nurtures a fertilized egg for another woman.

In vitro fertilization, where the ovum and sperm belong to the couple concerned, is acceptable and can be seen simply as an extension of artificial insemination by husband, but serious ethical problems arise if the procedure is extended to include the use of donor ova or sperm, which the working party sees as driving a wedge between biological and social parenthood. Some members felt a Christian couple should agree to have children by each other or not at all.

The report suggests six social and legal measures which should be taken in safeguard the offspring of AID. These include legislation to deal with the existing situation that an AID child is technically illegitimate.

It recommends that AID children should be brought up to know the truth about their parentage, just as adopted children are now often told they are adopted, and should have access, if they seek it, to their genetic records. The name of the donor should be secret.

Choices in Childlessness (Free Church Federal Council, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EH, price 80p).

Another fare rise likely for London

By Nicholas Timmins and Michael Bailey

Londoners face a possible 25 per cent fare rise in the autumn, on top of tomorrow's record increase of 100 per cent.

That is what would be needed to meet the extra £40m cost if London Transport workers win their fight for a 12 per cent wage rise in place of the 5 per cent budgeted for by LT.

There is no chance of the extra cost being met by additional help from either the Government or the Greater London Council, and it would therefore have to come from fares to keep LT within the law.

After six months of the cheap fares introduced by the Labour-controlled Greater London Council, and subsequently declared illegal by the Law Lords, London commuters face a gloomy day on Monday with fares rising to about a third higher than the levels of last autumn.

Worst hit will be commuters living in inner suburbs such as Kensington and working in the City, whose two-zone Underground fare goes up 130 per cent from 30p to 70p. Zonal bus fares will double from 10p to 20p; minibus from 30p to 60p for two zones; and from 40p to 80p for three zones.

The price of bus passes will be doubled, as will the flat fare for children, from 5p to 10p. Underground fares generally will rise by an average of 94 per cent.

The prospect was yesterday described by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, as ugly and deplorable.

Mr Howell said that Londoners should not blame the Government, as a current series of GLC advertisements invited commuters to "blame the direct result in the 'fiasco' of GLC policies. He had asked the GLC to prepare positive plans to improve LT and if they failed the Government would have to impose other solutions.

London Transport estimate that as a direct result of this weekend's fare rises, bus travel will decline by 190,000 journeys a year (5 per cent) and Underground by 55,000 (10 per cent).

Bus service cuts in two stages

About 20 per cent of these lost journeys will be made by car or motorcycle, 40 per cent on foot or by cycle, 10 per cent by taxi, and 30 per cent by British Rail. The 20 per cent will not take place. An increase of 300,000 vehicle-miles a day by bus and taxi (3 per cent) is forecast.

The sole bright spot is that services will not be cut as planned this weekend because the unions have refused to countenance the resultant loss of earnings.

But in Underground services have been postponed for a month. Cuts in bus services, which will result in marginally longer waiting times, are expected in two stages, in April and July.

London Transport estimates that there will be an 18 per cent loss of traffic this year. By 1984, on figures from LT's outline budget, up to 1,200 million passenger miles, almost a quarter of the total, could be lost. Despite plans to reduce jobs by perhaps 5,000 by 1984, the figures suggest that productivity will still decline to its lowest level, perhaps 73,000 passenger miles per employee, 16 per cent lower than last year and well below the 170,000 achieved by the transport system in Paris.

Although various measures can be used to assess productivity—and some of those LT shows improvement—on passenger miles for each employee, LT's performance has been declining for more than a decade.

In the early 1970s LT handled about 21,100 million passenger journeys a year, while Paris managed about 1,600 million. A decade later their positions were almost reversed. London's passenger journeys had fallen to 1,750 million, while Paris was carrying 2,050 million.

Simple zonal fare structures

The Paris achievement lay essentially in an investment programme of £1,800m, in a period when LT's capital spending the £550m. Subsidies produced cheaper fares, while London charged more for a deteriorating service. More importantly, Paris produced simple zonal fare structures, tickets that could be used on the Metro and buses, far less cash and wall-to-wall, and the widespread use of one-man operation, with a pruning of platform staff on the Metro.

Paris runs its system on 40,000 staff, against LT's 60,000. London needing half as many staff again to carry 15 per cent fewer passengers, a position briefly improved by the GLC's Fare's Fair scheme, with its resulting increase in travel.

This comparison is less than fair, because the Metro plays a bigger role in transport in Paris than the Underground in London, and trains carry many more passengers per crew than buses. In addition, some of Paris's gain will shortly be off.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Thatcher policy chief leaving post

Mr John Hoskyns, the head of the Prime Minister's policy unit at Downing Street, at the end of next month (Anthony Bevins writes).

Mr John Hoskyns, aged 54, has worked with Mrs Margaret Thatcher for five years. He hopes to return to business. He served in the Rifle Brigade from 1945 to 1957, when joined IBM United Kingdom Ltd. He later founded a company.

The policy unit, which deals with issues of immediate interest and concern to the Prime Minister, is now left with one civil servant. No replacement has yet been chosen for Mr Hoskyns, who receives the salary of an Under-Secretary, £21,935 plus £1,067 London weighting.

It was stated last night that the departure of Mr Hoskyns and of Mr Robin Ibbes, head of the Central Policy Review Staff, at the end of this month, was coincidental.

Flying lessons for jobless

Twenty unemployed school leavers in the North-east are to be taught to build and fly an aircraft at Sunderland under a scheme financed by a £54,000 grant under the Youth Opportunities Programme (Ronald Faux writes).

Mr George Taylor, manager of the adult community enterprise programme in the area and a spare-time builder of light aircraft, proposed the idea because he thought the skills required would give the young people a useful grounding in mechanical and electrical engineering, woodwork and welding.

The programme will last a year. The two-seat aircraft will be built and flown under the supervision of two former RAF officers.

Judge rejects husband's plea

An application for a writ of habeas corpus was dismissed in the High Court in Belfast yesterday after a judge said that the mother-in-law of Mr Christopher Black, an alleged IRA informer, was with him in a "place of safety" (Richard Ford writes from Belfast).

Mrs Margaret Russell, aged 66, was last seen leaving her home in North Belfast with her policeman last November but had chosen to be with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr Justice Kelly was told. The application was made by the woman's husband.

Gaelic greeting by the Pope

The Pope is learning a few words in Gaelic in preparation for his visit to Scotland, Cardinal Gordon Gray, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, said on returning from the Vatican yesterday.

The head of the Church of Scotland could find himself being greeted in the native tongue when he meets the Pope at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh.

Cable broadcast investigation

The Prime Minister yesterday confirmed that Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, would be making early arrangements for an examination of the implications of cable television networks.

The first of these, that Mr Thatcher said in a Commons written reply that the report of the Cabinet's Information Technology Advisory Panel on cable and satellite broadcasting would be published on Monday, would require "detailed and urgent examination".

Children die in house blaze

Three children died in a fire which destroyed their council home in Warrington, Cheshire, today. Their mother, Mrs Edna Lythgoe, aged 39, was being treated for serious burns and head injuries last night.

The blaze started in the gas central heating system. Three weeks ago Mrs Lythgoe put out a fire in the central heating system. The dead children were Lynda, aged 15, Samantha, aged 14, and Graham, aged two.

Rye MP to retire

Mr Godman Irvine, Conservative MP for Rye since 1955, is not to seek re-election, Mr Irvine, aged 72, a barrister, has been a Deputy Speaker since 1979.

'The Little Foxes'

The charity preview performance of *The Little Foxes*, mentioned on March 6, was in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child as well as MIND.

Teachers press claim with half-day strikes

By Frances Gibb

Teachers yesterday agreed to mount a series of four half-day nationwide strikes, to start on March 23, after a decision by their employers to refer to a 12 per cent pay claim to arbitration.

The action, which would affect a quarter of all schools in England and Wales each day, was agreed by the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers, which together represent 370,000 staff.

The management panel of the Burnham Committee, which negotiates teachers' pay in England and Wales, has offered an increase of 3.4 per cent. Its decision not to refer the claim to arbitration was made on Thursday after a meeting in which the management side was split between those wanting immediate arbitration and those urging further negotiations.

Further talks are to take place on Thursday, but if they break down the strike action will go ahead.

Teachers will be called out in three regions at a time from Monday to Thursday.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said yesterday: "The local authorities are now bringing children into this dispute by refusing the peaceful and sensible way out offered by arbitration."

The employers' decision also provoked an angry response from the traditionally moderate Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association.

Whitelaw to get plea on 'Romans'

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government is likely to be asked next week to make parliamentary time available to amend the Theatres Act, 1968, which governs obscene displays in theatres and was thought to have abolished censorship of the stage.

An approach to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is being organized by the Theatre Defence Fund after a prosecution for gross indecency was brought by Mrs. Mary Whitehouse against Mr Michael Bogdanov, director of *The Romans* in Britain, staged at the National Theatre.

The prosecution was abandoned on Thursday amid some confusion, leaving the legal position unclear.

The withdrawal of the case led to some outright criticism by Mr Justice Staughton, the judge at the Central Criminal Court, and implied strictures from Mr Kenneth Richardson, senior Treasury Counsel representing the Attorney General.

What seems clear is that the decision not to proceed was initially taken by Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, counsel for the prosecution, because of the damage a conviction might do to Mr Bogdanov, who had apparently staged a homosexual rape scene in the play in good faith. Mr Kennedy told Mrs Whitehouse who, he said, "accepted and readily agreed" with his decision.

This happened on Wednesday, after the judge's ruling that there was a case to answer. But Mr Kennedy also told Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, counsel for the defence, who in turn informed Mr Bogdanov. The two counsel.

The judge, however, whose opinion was apparently that Mr Bogdanov should not have been told before the Attorney General had considered Mr Kennedy's views, took a stronger view of the issue.

He told the court he had not been consulted before Mr Bogdanov was informed, adding: "Although I do not doubt that it was done with a good motive, I am bound to say that any notion that the trial could be brought to a conclusion was misconceived and improper."

But other legal opinion was that Mr Kennedy, an experienced counsel whose earlier prosecutions include the Operation Julie drugs case and the IRA bombings in Aldershot, acted with "total propriety" and there was speculation that the judge's comments might be referred to the Bar Council.

Mrs Whitehouse said last night that she could not afford the estimated £20,000 legal costs for the prosecution, which she had brought as an individual and not as president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association. But she was optimistic about meeting the bill because of the "great number of people" who supported her action.

The move by the theatre defence fund was last night welcomed by Sir Roy Shaw, Council, who said the council would be sympathetic towards a joint approach to the Home Office.

In the council's first public comment on the case, Sir Roy said it would also be pressing Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, for change in the Theatres Act.

Analysis of race cases attacked

By Richard Evans

Mr William Whitelaw is bitterly criticized today by Britain's first Scarman-style police and community liaison group for allowing last week's racial breakdown of London street crime statistics to be published.

He will be told in the bluntest terms by the new group, based in Lambeth, south London, that the analysis will harm relations between police and the black community and will aid extremists.

"The task that you have set us of recreating confidence between the community and the police is difficult enough in all conscience. It is made all the more difficult by the singling out of these 'statistics', and cooperation has taken a step backwards," Father Charles Walker, the group chairman, says in a letter to the Home Secretary.

The liaison group, established on the lines recommended in Lord Scarman's report into last year's Brixton riots, was formed only two weeks ago, with the active encouragement of Mr Whitelaw.

In his letter Father Walker, aged 58, a Roman Catholic priest, tells the Home Secretary of the group's "anxiety and indignation that figures so sensitive, drawing special attention to Lambeth and its black community, should have been isolated and issued in so insensitive and suggestive a manner."

He says the apparent identification of a minority community with violent crime "arouses intense emotions which extremists of all kinds rejoice to exploit."

Scotland Yard figures released last week disclosed that Lambeth had a total of 2,493 cases involving violent street crime in 1981, of which 1,388 were said to have been committed by coloured people.

PROCEDURE REVIEW IN COMA CASE

From Our Correspondent, Ludlow

The Hereford and Worcester Area Health Authority is to seek a review of the procedures for investigating serious accidents in hospitals, as a result of a report of the case of an SAS soldier who was left in a coma by an operation mishap.

The authority, which met in private to discuss the report by three leading doctors on an incident involving Mr David Woodhouse, aged 28, at Hereford County Hospital, said later that it was unsatisfactory that the inquiry team had to rely on written evidence alone.

Mr Woodhouse, the father of four young daughters, has been in a coma since a routine appendix operation last May.

The AHA yesterday accepted the findings of the three-man inquiry team which principally blamed human error by an anaesthetist.

However, the AHA statement yesterday said that Dr Ibrahim had worked at Hereford for seven months before the incident and had proved himself "a trustworthy, conscientious and proficient doctor", who spoke and understood English well.

CABINET OF 1763 LEFT UNSOLD

By Geraldine Norman

A mahogany cabinet made by William Ballant in 1763, which fetched £28,600 at Christie's in 1977, failed to find a buyer at Sotheby's yesterday and was bought in at £14,000. Sotheby's had forecast a sale in the £40,000 to £60,000 price range.

The trouble, according to Sotheby's expert, was that the collector who had bought it was selling the piece.

A very fine quality satinwood breakfast buffet case of about 1780, judiciously restored, fetched £27,500 (estimate £15,000-£20,000).

In contrast, a pair of side tables needing a good deal of patching up and daisywood chairs at £19,000 (estimate £8,000-£12,000), and a pair of handsome George III mahogany library armchairs, fresh on the market, for which Phillips and Harris paid £17,600 (estimate £4,000-£6,000).



Spring host: Daffodils herald the coming season in Hyde Park, London.

Prosser murder trial ends

Prison officers acquitted

From Arthur Osman, Leicester

The three prison hospital officers acquitted of murder yesterday left Leicester Crown Court to a barrage of abuse, some from former prisoners who had sat in court throughout their 15-day trial. Others, who wept uncontrollably, included relatives of the dead man, Mr Barry Prosser, of Sedgley, West Midlands.

The three men hurried with police in attendance to the garage below the court building to cries of "murderers" and "you have got to come!" They were greeted, by fellow prison officers in civilian clothes who applauded them as they walked down the ramp. The three drove away in a convoy of four cars with a police escort to renewed abuse of the officers.

In their wake they left the unanswered question of how Mr Prosser, aged 32, came by his injuries, which led to his death in a hospital wing cell at Winston Green prison, Birmingham, where he was on remand, in August, 1980.

It is unlikely the question will ever be resolved, but Mr Martin Kent-Davies, the family's solicitor, said a claim would be lodged with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. An action against the Home Office was also contemplated.

It was learned that the men's appearance in the dock in a case that made history by a charge of murder against one of them being levelled three times, was ordered only after intervention by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, and Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions.

After the verdict the Home Office said: "The three men are to remain on special paid leave. We will want to consider the evidence of the case and the judge's comments, before taking any decision on their futures."

The three men are: Mr Melvin Jackson, aged 33, of Stourport on Severn, Hereford and Worcester, a prison officer since 1969; Mr Eric Smith, aged 32, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, in the prison service since 1975; and Mr Howard Price, aged 25, of Chasetown, West Midlands, a prison officer for five years.

Thier male and female relatives collapsed in tears when the jury of four women and eight men returned after nine hours 15 minutes, which included an overnight stay in a hotel, to return not guilty verdicts.

Mr Smith cried: "Oh God, thank you."

For members of the Prosser family, the verdicts were described as "shattering". Mr Prosser's sister, Mrs Vera Ball collapsed, and another sister, Mrs Jean Webb, said: "My brother was left to die in a cell with no attention whatsoever. How can that be explained?"

"We are going to see our solicitor and press for a public inquiry. There are so many questions still unanswered, I realize the jury had a difficult task but you cannot forget that a coroner's jury returned a verdict that he was unlawfully killed."

Mrs Dorothy Prosser, the dead man's widow, said before leaving with Sunday newspaper representatives: "To me, it has seemed like Barry has been on trial for the past three weeks, rather than the three men in the dock."

"Now I must start rebuilding our lives, for the past 18 months have been terribly affected by this. Darren, aged 12, and Alison, aged six."

Yesterday's verdicts were also confirmation of the view taken last September by Mr F.H. Hatchard, the Birmingham Magistrate, that a jury properly directed should not convict any of the accused.

His predecessor as stipendiary, Mr John Millward, had refused to commit Mr Jackson on a charge of murder 13 months ago. Then all three men appeared before Mr Hatchard last September and after an eight-day hearing he refused to commit them.

A report on the committal hearing was requested by the Home Office. Mr Whitelaw, who was facing a demand in the Commons for a public enquiry into affairs at Winston Green from Mr Blackburn, Conservative MP, Dudley, West, and it was renewed yesterday - intervened with the law officers.

The DPP's office said categorically on October 1

that the matter was closed. But Mr Whitelaw's pressure brought an application by the director on October 26 for a voluntary bill of indictment and the trial was the outcome.

As the Crown knew from the outset, the crucial part of its case was the credibility of Mr Patrick Galvin, aged 23, a Birmingham man serving six years for manslaughter after killing a youth outside a public house. He was described as "educationally subnormal and illiterate."

He had come forward at the inquest on Mr Prosser last April to allege he had seen the three officers go to the cell and later reappear "chattered up" (flushed) as if they had started themselves.

Mr Justice Skinner, in a key passage of his summing up, told the jury it would be dangerous to act on his evidence, except where it was confirmed by other reliable evidence. There was none, despite intensive work by police who took more than 500 statements, questioned 300 inmates of the prison and visited more than a dozen penal establishments, including Rampton and Broadmoor.

None of the three accused was willing to talk to journalists after they left the court. But Mr George Jones, Birmingham solicitor who prepared the defence of Mr Smith and Mr Price, said: "All they want to do now is thank the many friends who supported them and their wives and to get back to work and a normal life as soon as possible."

One of the anomalies of the case was that Mr Prosser, who was 6ft 3in and weighed 14½ stone, and suffered from hypomania, which made him excitable, was in prison for causing criminal damage amounting to £150.

□ The Howard League for Penal Reform called for a public inquiry into the Barry Prosser case and the prison deaths, (the Press-Association reports).



Not guilty: Mr Howard Price, Mr Melvin Jackson, and Mr Eric Smith.

UK poised for £900m EEC aid

From Ronald Kershaw

Brussels

The European Commission is expected to approve early next week recommendations that will give Britain just over £900m supplementary payments for regional development programmes.

Whether that will lower the temperature at next Tuesday's meeting of foreign ministers, when further attempts will be made to lower Britain's budget contribution, remains to be seen.

Britain sees the establishment of supplementary measures in its favour merely as a refund for its high contribution to the EEC budget.

Introduced in May, 1980, the special measures were intended to provide a breathing space of two years to find a solution to the "British problem".

The supplementary payments recommendations come from the supplementary measures committee, which met last Tuesday.

If the Commission approves the expenditure, which the committee emphasizes is only a temporary measure, then 90 per cent of the £900m will be paid before the end of this month, that is before the close of the financial year. The 10 per cent withheld is a safety margin to cover over-estimation and will be paid later.

The money will be used for capital expenditure programmes in Scotland, Wales, the north of England, South Wales, Northern Ireland, and the London roads.

□ A difference of view has emerged between the Government and the European Commission over the independent role of local councils in economic regeneration (David Walker writes).

Mr Ivor Richard, the EEC commissioner social policy, said in Manchester yesterday that he wanted to instigate a campaign by national governments, the EEC and local authorities to create jobs and dampen the "explosive mix" in districts of racial tension like Moss Side.

He described as "unfortunate" any moves by the Government to deter local initiative, a reference to the recent government Green Paper, which proposed a reduction in the power of local authorities to grant money and loans to industry.

"The UK government is getting restive about the numbers of local authorities coming direct to Brussels. I am sorry if this is the case. They are the best spokesmen for the local areas, they understand them best," he said.

LITTLEJOHN REMANDED

Mr Kenneth Littlejohn, aged 40, from Birmingham, charged in the name of Kenneth Austin, was remanded in custody for seven days yesterday when he made his second appearance before magistrates at Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr Austin, who last appeared on Wednesday, stood in the dock yesterday with Anthony Peter Walsh, aged 40, from Dublin. Both are charged with stealing £15,000 in an armed raid on The Old Manor House, Northingfield, near Chesterfield, last Monday. Reporting restrictions have been lifted.

Overseas selling prices

Barley	22.50	Barley	22.50
Beans	12.50	Beans	12.50
Bran	1.50	Bran	1.50
Butter	1.50	Butter	1.50
Flour	1.50	Flour	1.50
Grain	1.50	Grain	1.50
Maize	1.50	Maize	1.50
Meat	1.50	Meat	1.50
Milk	1.50	Milk	1.50
Oil	1.50	Oil	1.50
Rice	1.50	Rice	1.50
Sugar	1.50	Sugar	1.50
Wheat	1.50	Wheat	1.50

Coal spoil presents problems

A new derelict land survey was to be available at the end of this year, Mr John Moore, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said in replying to a debate in the Commons on the coal industry and the environment.

A motion, introduced by Mr Edmund Marshall (Goole, Lab) was approved which welcomed the report of the Commission on Energy and the Environment (CENE), and called on the Government, the National Coal Board and other relevant authorities to study the report's recommendations in order to take early action to reduce the problem of coal mining subsidence, derelict colliery land, colliery waste disposal and pollution and the environmental impacts of open cast mining and coal transport.

Mr Moore said the result of the survey would enable them to assess the size of the remaining derelict land problem in coalfield areas.

Some 50 million tonnes of spoil was produced by the coal industry every year. The Yorkshire local authorities were sponsoring a feasibility study into the technical possibilities and costs and benefits of transporting spoil from the

PARLIAMENT March 19, 1982

Yorkshire colliery to the mudflats of Pyewee, South Humber-side. The report would be completed this year and his department and the Department of Environment would study it with interest.

High priority must be given to improving tipping and restoration techniques and to developing new and more imaginative approaches to landscape design.

Progress had been made by the NCB and a number of local authorities as well as the Welsh Development Agency in drawing up realistic rolling programmes for land reclamation. He welcomed the motion.

Mr Marshall said that his answer to both subsidence and tipping was to return to the old system whereby the coal and waste were separated underground and the waste was left underground.

He knew the NCB opposed this method on the grounds of economy, but he called on the government to start urgent research work on this practical solution to the problems.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Scunthorpe, C) said that there was a responsibility on the nation to accept some of the burdens of the environmental cost of mining, but equally it was important that the consumer to accept that there was an element in the price of coal which should be included to cover the cost of colliery waste disposal.

Mr Alec Woodall (Hornsworth, Lab) said there was no compensation for the stresses and strains suffered by those whose homes were affected by subsidence. He knew of instances where people had woken in the

night to find their furniture, in one case a baby's cot, sliding across the room because part of the house had dropped.

Mr Allen McKelvey (Penistone, Lab) said that the Government's position for subsidence should be looked at. It was only through a partnership between local authorities, central government and NCB that they could overcome the problems of subsidence and despoliation.

Mr Eric Ogden (Liverpool, Lab) said that the Government should not only meet all the qualifications needed in the next chairman of the National Coal Board, but also look at the opportunities for the industry and the country if an invitation to become chairman were extended to Mr Joe Gormley.

Mr Frank Hayes (Ashfield, Lab) said that the qualifications described by Mr Ogden fitted an MP, whom he did not name. He hoped that the Government would be sensible in the appointment of the chairman.

Mr Tam Dalyell, opposition spokesman on science (West Lothian, Lab), said that if the Wildlife and Countryside Act was to be essential, the Government should act now and act effectively. The Act must be strengthened. It had inhibited flows which were unworkable.

A method of protecting sites of special scientific interest in the same way as ancient buildings could be preserved for the benefit of all people. The deterrents in the Act were useless. The Act had been revealed as an empty charade.

Tension mounts on West Bank as Arabs strike

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah, March 19

As large sections of the West Bank's 700,000 Palestinians began a 72-hour protest strike today the Israeli military authorities reinforced their latest clampdown by banning the distribution of all three local Arabic newspapers in the occupied region.

The main visible effects of the strike were initially restricted to the two main Christian towns of Ramallah and Bethlehem. In the rest of the West Bank Friday is traditionally treated as a Muslim holiday when most business premises remain closed.

The ban came as tension among the Arabs was rising after yesterday's unprecedented Israeli decision to disband the entire elected Arab council of El-Bireh and replace it by a committee of Israeli military officers who will administer all local affairs.

Israeli troop reinforcements have been drafted into the area in anticipation of violent protests against the move, which is regarded as the beginning of a drive to dismiss a number of the most radical Palestinian municipalities. Both Israeli and Arab critics have described the take over of El-Bireh town hall as a further step towards Israeli annexation of what the Government calls "Judea and Samaria".

The confiscation of the copies of *Al Fajr*, *Al Sha'ab* and *El Kuds* (as well as the weekly, English language edition of *Al Fajr*) took place as the papers were being driven from their printing works in east Jerusalem for sale in the West Bank. The papers were still available in the Arab sector of Jerusalem.

Israeli military sources claimed that the editions had been seized because they breached strict military censorship regulations. This charge was flatly denied by Arab journalists involved in their production. The Israelis also said that they contained "inflammatory" material.

There were allegations by Palestinian leaders that the move was a deliberate attempt to restrict coverage of the widespread protests caused in the West Bank by the dissolution of El-Bireh council. All three papers have been strongly critical of the new Israeli civilian administration.

One senior *Al Fajr* journalist told me that the paper had written proof that all material in this morning's edition had been approved by the Israeli censor in the normal way. He denied that any attempt had been made to by-pass censorship in reporting on the El-Bireh affair.

The move against the press came only two days after Mr Abba Eban, the opposition Labour spokesman on

foreign affairs, tabled a Knesset question asking Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, whether Arab libraries and bookshops in the West Bank were liable to prosecution if they held books freely available in East Jerusalem.

Mr Eban asked the minister to confirm whether the "index" of books banned in the West Bank included a number of well known works of literature including George Orwell's 1984, the poems of Pablo Neruda and two historical works about the river Nile written by Alan Moorehead.

Although most West Bank municipalities have decided to back the general strike call, leading mayors are split on whether or not to stage a mass resignation. Among those opposed to the suggestion is Mr Elias Freij of Bethlehem, who argues that it would only make things easier for the Israelis.

In Ramallah today, support for the strike was total, with all shops, businesses and schools shut. Squads of Israeli troops with walkie-talkies patrolled the streets while hostile looking Arabs milled around in small groups.

Less than a mile away in El-Bireh, Israeli troops had established a rooftop command position overlooking the municipality building where the job done since 1976 by Mr Ibrahim Tawil, Arab mayor, will now be carried out by Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Bar-Kochba.

Explaining Israel's policy in El-Bireh, Mr Sharon stated: "The reason for the inability of the mayor and the city council members to function is rooted in the fact that they preferred an extraneous political consideration to the well being of their city and its inhabitants, since they cut off all contact with the civilian administration."

□ Beirut: Serious differences emerged today in the Palestinian interpretation of the eight-month-old ceasefire in southern Lebanon (Robert Fisk writes). According to the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israeli reconnaissance flights over the country constitute a breach of the truce; but increased weapons supplies to Palestinian guerrillas north of the Litani river are not covered by the ceasefire accord.

In Beirut this afternoon, Mr Khalil Wazzir, the military head of the PLO — who uses the nom-de-guerre of Abu Jihad — claimed that the Israelis had invented a clause in the truce agreement stipulating that the guerrillas could not bring more arms into the areas they controlled in southern Lebanon.

Israeli troops remove squatters from Sinai

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, March 19

Helicopter-borne troops searched the Sinai desert today and seized 35 men, women and children who had spread out in the dunes as part of their campaign to prevent the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the peninsula by April 25.

The military command said the operation was completed in the early afternoon and all 35 squatters were taken by lorry across the former international border. But The Stop the Withdrawal from Sinai movement's headquarters in Yamit said there had been approximately 100 squatters and some were still hiding. They were supplied with food and water for the Sabbath.

The squatters arrived in the early morning darkness at the site of Hamat Adar, an illegal desert settlement twice cleared by the Army and levelled. The squatters pitched tents and assembled tin shacks.

The operation had been

timed for a Friday, apparently on the assumption that the Army have limited time to complete an operation this morning and tried unsuccessfully to persuade the squatters to leave. Later, when the squatters saw a military convoy approaching, they abandoned their encampment and dispersed in the surrounding dunes into previously prepared positions.

The Army summoned reinforcements, including airborne troops. Jeeps rounded up squatters some of whom hid among the sparse vegetation in the main action. The squatters refused to move and had to be dragged to the lorries for evacuation. The activists later said they would be back at Hamat Adar.

Gandhi hopes high for better ties with Britain

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, March 19

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, reflected today on the difficult relationship between India and the United States and said she wished it were better. She said, too, that there was no question of any lessening in India's friendship with Russia.

We are trying to have a better relationship with the United States. They have made a global strategy and I do not know what part India plays in that, if any.

"It is up to them. We are not doing anything unfriendly. A lot in the world depends on the attitude of the United States and I would be glad if the relationship were warmer and better."

Mrs Gandhi said friendship with the Soviet Union was valuable and India wanted to retain it. "They have stood by us and helped, especially in development, when no one else wanted to."

"There is no question of lessening friendship with the Soviet Union. We have not allowed them (the Russians) to influence our judgment, actions or policies."

Mrs Gandhi, who is visiting Britain from Sunday in connection with the festival of India, was talking to me in her room in the Parliament building in Delhi. She said she hoped her visit and talks with Mrs Thatcher would

help to create "a more normal and better relationship" with Britain.

Some of the past had been unhappy, but "that is history and we are trying to give contemporary relevance to our relationship. An important part of this is economic cooperation."

"She hoped that the exhibitions showing Indian culture, science and what we are trying to do in our country today" would help to make India better understood.

"India is not a country you can easily ignore. Most people like or dislike it intensely. Its complexities baffle them."

She said that the impressions many people had of

India were drawn from the press, and that visitors from abroad found the Indian reality quite different from the impressions they had gained from newspapers.

The role of the press came up again when she talked of her image. "I am not dismayed by my image in the foreign press. It is so utterly incorrect it misleads, but it doesn't affect us (in India). We are doing what is right."

When she agreed she got on well with Mrs Thatcher, she added with a broad smile: "I get on well with most people, strange as may seem. I got on well with President Reagan in Cancun ... on a personal basis."

On the subject of the South Africa tour by the England cricket team, she said it would be difficult for Indian players to play with an team that had gone to South Africa. She said that before England toured India recently, and the question of the South African connections of two players arose, India had consulted some African countries. "When they said it was all right we went ahead."

Mrs Gandhi said she was looking forward to visiting London a city she likes. "Will there be some flowers out? I do hope so. I would like to get out into the country, if I can, but the programme is so tight." She looked a little wistful.

Unrest in Ghana

Rawlings foils coup plot in Army

From Godfrey Morrison, Abidjan, March 19

Reliable reports reaching here of an abortive coup plot against Ghana's 11-week-old military Government confirm other indications that the regime's hold on power remains fragile. Its success in dealing with the country's economic plight has been meagre.

Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seized power in a New Year's eve coup over-throwing the civilian Government of President Hilla Limann, since when the ruling Provisional National Defence Council has been waging a "holy war" against the country's endemic corruption, and has been trying to restore some kind of order to its chaotic finances.

One of the main threats to the defence council has been a lack of cohesion in the armed forces, of whom its power ultimately rests. It is therefore particularly ominous that the recent coup plot should have been discovered in the armed forces.

A reliable source told *The Times* that the plot was discovered in Accra on March 4, when an Army captain was taken part in a rehearsal for a concert to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of independence, due to be held two days later, and the Ghanaian security authorities, mindful of how President Sankar of Egypt was assassinated during a military parade, took him in for questioning. Under interrogation the officer apparently confessed, implicating four other officers and eight other soldiers, the source said.

When the parade was held it was noted that Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings was not in his usual flamboyant self. Instead of arriving at the parade in full view of the public, standing on top of an armoured car, as is his wont, he was in the back of the vehicle and only emerged, surrounded by heavily armed bodyguards, to take part in the parade ground.

Qualified observers noted that he appeared to be wearing a flak jacket under his tunic and that throughout the ceremony he was surrounded by moving bodyguards which would have made it very difficult for any sniper to get a sight on him. Heavily armed guards stood

facing diplomats and journalists attending the parade.

This circumstantial report confirms accounts reaching *The Times* from Lomé, the capital of Ghana's eastern neighbour Togo, of continuing unrest in Ghana, and, more particularly, of falling discipline within the armed forces.

The strongest card held by the Government is still the widespread personal popularity of Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings, particularly among workers and radical intellectuals, but he faces a difficult task. The country is still very short of foreign exchange and shortages of essential items.

A key question, however, must be how long Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings' popularity, founded in part on a belief that he can deliver the economic goods, will survive continued austerity. Earlier this week the defence council decreed that all applications by trade unions for wage increases should be withdrawn in view of the economic situation.

The effect of such an order is mitigated to some extent by the defence council's success in decreasing reductions in such things as rents and transport charges. But these are *ad hoc* measures and do not amount to a coherent economic policy to deal with such basic problems as runaway inflation and grossly overvalued currency. This uncertainty is a principal source of complaint among Ghana's traditional elite — the middle classes in government and the private sector. However, their power has been greatly curtailed by "people's defence committees" run by junior staff members.

These committees, though initially popular with the man in the street, do not encourage discipline. But if the defence council is not clear about its economic strategy it certainly seems to know what it wants when it comes to the arts, and has launched what amounts to a cultural revolution.

Last week, a defence council member said the government was going to ban foreign-oriented music on the radio.

240 held in Jakarta

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, March 19

Armoured cars, police in riot gear and troops with unslung rifles patrolled the tense northern sector of the Indonesian capital today after arson and rioting on Thursday, which left at least 63 injured, hundreds of shops damaged and scores of cars burnt.

The Jakarta security authorities denied there had been any deaths in the rioting at Thursday's election rally. However, hospital sources told me there had been at least three deaths by stoning. The number of people officially reported to have been arrested had risen to 240 today with the number of injured put at more than 60.

Austrian services broadcast at midday today included calls for "patience and demonstrations" and a com-

muniqué issued by the country's political parties after a meeting called for continuing campaigning with tight discipline, and a possible ban on people under 16 attending the rallies.

The northern business district of Jakarta, much of it Chinese, was firmly bolted behind iron doors today with hundreds of children and gangs of youths were on street corners and sitting on pavements.

There were scattered reports of violence and car burning today but these were almost impossible to check. Journalists travelling through the northern business district saw hundreds of broken windows in government offices, shops and restaurants.

Kenya bans play by left-wing novelist

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, March 19

Kenya's leading novelist, Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong'o, is protesting strongly here about the refusal of the Kenyan authorities to approve a performance of his latest play, *Maitu Njũgũ* (Mother tell it to me), which contrasts the cruelties and discriminations of pre-independent Kenya with present-day problems of the country's peasants.

Ngũgĩ wrote the play in his native Kikuyu language, and it was to have been performed by a rural theatre cooperative, the Kamirithu group, from the Limuru area, near Nairobi. But the group's plan to present it at the National Theatre in Nairobi failed when the application for a permit brought no response, although they never received a formal rejection.

The issue has aroused great interest here. Ngũgĩ is the author of several novels, including *Petals of Blood*, *Weep Not Child* and *The River Between*. He was an associate Professor of Literature at Nairobi University until he was detained in 1977. No reason was given for his detention, and he was released on the orders of President Daniel arap Moi after the death of President Kenyatta in 1978. He then applied for reinstatement at the university, but was unsuccessful.

The new play appears to have angered officials, probably because it is regarded as too left-wing in its ideas. Ngũgĩ is a socialist, has visited the Soviet Union, and made no secret of his dislike of Kenya's capitalist policies, which, he says, have resulted in the exploitation of the peasants.

The play also appears to some of its critics to be seditious — in the sense that it is likely to cause hatred between Africans and whites by exaggerating the alleged indignities of a forced labour system 50 years ago, and by portraying Africans as being raped and crucified in their struggle for freedom.

The play is to a large extent allegorical, and would be unlikely to offend a sophisticated audience, but the authorities seem to fear its impact on the unsophisticated.

However, the official opposition has now gone further than banning one play, and the local chief has ordered the Kamirithu group to disband. Local police have dismantled the group's theatre, an open-air affair with simple seats for several hundred spectators, surrounded by a bamboo fence.

The group had been invited to travel to Zimbabwe to present the play there, but they are unlikely to be issued with passports. The Minister about its economic strategy is certainly seeking approval for the Zimbabwe trip, Ngũgĩ says.

UNWANTED NAZI LOOT PILES UP

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, March 19 — The decision to return Nazi-era art works seized by American troops after the last war has left the Government with the problem of what to do with thousands of paintings no one really wants.

"We did not ask for them back," a government official said. "The Government had simply accepted them after Congress passed a law permitting their return."

It is now exploring cheap ways of shipping them back to Germany. Officials will then have to try to trace their owners.

Those which belonged to the State and those which remain unclaimed are expected to join countless other Nazi-era works in museum cellars and archives, looked at only by scholars and historians.

European Law Report

Court of Justice of the European Communities

French imports of wine from Italy

Commission of the European Communities (applicant) and the Italian Republic (intervener) against the French Republic (defendant)

Case No 42/82 R. Before the President of the Court of Justice, Judge J. Mertens de Wilmars, Advocate General: Sir Gordon Slynn.

[Order made March 4] On February 4, 1982 the Commission acting in accordance with Article 165 of the EEC Treaty commenced proceedings against the French Republic for a declaration that the latter had failed to fulfil its obligations under Community law in relation to the importation of Italian wines to unreasonably delayed customs clearance.

On February 5 the Commission acting in accordance with Article 166 of the Treaty and Article 85 of the rules of procedure made an application for the adoption of interim measures requiring the French Republic to ensure the

free movement of wine pending the outcome of the main action.

In his judgement, the President first considered whether a prima facie case had been made out in accordance with Article 83(2) of the rules of procedure and after referring inter alia to violent demonstrations in France against Italian wine imports which were followed by increased French restrictions, concluded that it had.

He then considered whether interim measures were necessary under Article 166 of the Treaty and concluded that they were. Holding that economic and political difficulties such as those canvassed in the case could not justify unilateral measures on the part of a member state, and he made the following order:

1. Pending the judgment to be given in the main action, the French Republic, as regards the release for consumption in Italy of specific quantities of wine, is required to adhere to the restrictions specified hereunder: (A) Apart from special cases where specific evidence may justify a suspicion of fraud, the frequency of analyses before release for consumption of the consignments presented at the frontier, must not exceed 15 per cent of the consignments presented at the frontier.

(B) The duration of analyses carried out before the release for consumption of the consignments concerned must not exceed 21 days as from the presentation of the consignments and documents at the frontier, except for special reasons which exceptionally justify specific analyses.

(C) The release for consumption of consignments of wine can be refused on the ground of irregularity of the accompanying documents only where such irregularities are substantial.

(D) When substantial irregularities are established by the French authorities, the latter must inform the Italian authorities of these, without delay and supply the necessary documentation. Every consignment in respect of which the accompanying document has been put into proper form by the Italian authorities must immediately be released for consumption.

2. When the release for consumption of quantities of wine from Italy exceeding a total of 50,000hl is refused for a period longer than 21 days for reasons of analysis or of irregularities accompanying documents, must inform the Commission of the reasons for such a refusal.

Heinrich v Commissioner of police of the Metropolis

Before Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Brightman (now Lord Brightman)

[Judgment delivered March 19]

Statements made by a complainant in the course of an investigation into the conduct of the police under section 49 of the Police Act 1964 were protected on the ground of public interest privilege. As a result during the course of a civil action brought by the complainant for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, the police could not cross-examine him on his statement. If there could be a waiver of public interest immunity, then waiver should be by the person providing the statement and not its recipient.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Gerald Anthony Heinrich, during the course of the trial before Mr Justice Russell who had ruled that the defendant, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement he had made as a complainant pursuant to the section 49 investigation.

Mr Justice Russell indicated that he would welcome the

guidance of the Court of Appeal and the court on March 14, 1982 decided that *Nelson v Laugharne* (The Times December 19, 1980, [1981] QB 735) was binding on the court and reserved their judgments on their reasons for so deciding.

Mr Colin Rosa-Munro, QC, and Mr Alan Bayliss for the plaintiff; Mr Laurence Marshall for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the plaintiff was arrested and charged with a minor offence under the Vagrancy Act 1824. The charge was dismissed and he was released on bail.

As a result of the decision in *Nelson*, which had made those statements immune from discovery, the defendant in the present case claimed public interest immunity for all statements made by the plaintiff in respect of the investigation.

The trial judge ruled that the defendant was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement. The ruling revealed the difficulty trial judges had in dealing with civil claims against the police.

been the practice of the police solicitor to advise police defendants in civil proceedings to disclose all statements made by the plaintiff in respect of the investigation.

That was a fair way of dealing with such litigation because as witnesses could be cross-examined on previous inconsistent statements.

As a result of the decision in *Nelson*, which had made those statements immune from discovery, the defendant in the present case claimed public interest immunity for all statements made by the plaintiff in respect of the investigation.

The trial judge ruled that the defendant was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement. The ruling revealed the difficulty trial judges had in dealing with civil claims against the police.

The defendant's counsel had the plaintiff's statements in his

brief. The plaintiff's counsel had not got, and would not get, copies of the defendant's claim to public interest immunity, copies of the two policemen's statements which meant that the police officers would be put into a privileged position.

The inference to be drawn from all three judgments in *Nelson* was that the mandate of public interest immunity was thrown over all statements made during the course of section 49 investigations and the court was bound by the decision.

The defendant could not waive those rights of public interest immunity because if there were such a waiver it should be waived by the maker of the statement and not by the recipient, see *Rogers v The Home Secretary* (Gaming Board v Rogers) (1973) AC 584, 407 per Lord Simon.

For the above reasons the defendant was not allowed to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement.

LORD JUSTICE BRIGHTMAN, agreeing, said that he wished to reserve for further consideration the proposition that public interest immunity could never be waived. In the *Nelson* case,

waiver did not arise but was

discussed. In the instant case the defendant sought to make use of the statements against the complainant's wishes.

If public interest immunity existed, the recipient of the statement could not waive protection from production but waiver by the maker of the statement raised different considerations. If the complainant had complied his statement at home and kept a copy, he would not be bound to disclose that copy in his list of documents.

Nor would there be any public interest in excluding such statements from the proceedings, if the maker of the statement wished it to be disclosed.

Perhaps that was not strictly a question of waiver; but of public interest immunity ceasing to attach to a statement in particular circumstances. In that sense, only, could one question the view that public interest immunity could not be waived.

The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Solicitor for Metropolitan Police; Davis Hanson.

Law Report March 20 1982 Court of Appeal

Privilege for complaints

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brief. The plaintiff's counsel had not got, and would not get, copies of the defendant's claim to public interest immunity, copies of the two policemen's statements which meant that the police officers would be put into a privileged position.

The inference to be drawn from all three judgments in *Nelson* was that the mandate of public interest immunity was thrown over all statements made during the course of section 49 investigations and the court was bound by the decision.

The defendant could not waive those rights of public interest immunity because if there were such a waiver it should be waived by the maker of the statement and not by the recipient, see *Rogers v The Home Secretary* (Gaming Board v Rogers) (1973) AC 584, 407 per Lord Simon.

For the above reasons the defendant was not allowed to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement.

LORD JUSTICE BRIGHTMAN, agreeing, said that he wished to reserve for further consideration the proposition that public interest immunity could never be waived. In the *Nelson* case,

waiver did not arise but was

discussed. In the instant case the defendant sought to make use of the statements against the complainant's wishes.

If public interest immunity existed, the recipient of the statement could not waive protection from production but waiver by the maker of the statement raised different considerations. If the complainant had complied his statement at home and kept a copy, he would not be bound to disclose that copy in his list of documents.

Nor would there be any public interest in excluding such statements from the proceedings, if the maker of the statement wished it to be disclosed.

Perhaps that was not strictly a question of waiver; but of public interest immunity ceasing to attach to a statement in particular circumstances. In that sense, only, could one question the view that public interest immunity could not be waived.

The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Solicitor for Metropolitan Police; Davis Hanson.

سكراي الاليل

enya bans ay by ft-wing ovelist

Charles Harrison
Nairobi, March 19
ya's leading novelist,
i Wa Thiong'o, is pro-
d strongly here about
refusal to approve the
formance of his play
Maitu Nyitra (Mother
to me), which contains
trutes and discip-
ns of pre-independence
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ugi wrote the play in his
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interest here. Ngugi is
author of several novels,
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A new play appears to
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Dutch envoy to investigate TV men's death

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam, March 19

The Dutch Government has ordered Baron Johannes Speyer, the Dutch Ambassador to Mexico, who is also accredited to El Salvador, to investigate the deaths of a four-man Dutch television team in El Salvador on Wednesday. Mr Max van der Stoep, the Dutch foreign Minister, said that he was "deeply shocked" by the deaths.

The four men were named as Koos Koster, aged 46, Jan Kuiper, aged 40, both journalists, Joop Willemse, aged 42, a cameraman, and Hans ter Laag, aged 25, a sound engineer.

In a joint statement the main Dutch political parties, the ruling Christian Democratic Labour and Democrat '66 and the main opposition party, the Liberals, expressed "deep dismay" over the deaths. They added that the event had confronted the Netherlands with the seriousness of human rights violations in El Salvador.

Mr Lejo Schenk, the editor of the television current affairs programme for which the team was working, said that he was convinced the four men had been murdered. He said that after Mr Koster had been questioned last week for five hours by the police in El Salvador as to why his name had been found on the body of a dead guerrilla, a photograph of the team had appeared in the Salvadoran newspapers which he concluded "as good as outlawed them".

There were conflicting reports as to how the men

died. According to one Dutch correspondent in El Salvador, "It is likely that the Army first arrested them and then shot them".

Another Dutch correspondent there said that he had seen the bodies in a mortuary in San Salvador but could not confirm reports that they had been shot in the neck. He said the bodies had multiple shot wounds which could indicate that they had been caught in crossfire. According to the El Salvador authorities the four men had met their deaths caught in crossfire between government troops and rebels.

Flags flew at half mast from all radio and television stations in The Netherlands today. The team had been working for IKON television which in Holland's complicated broadcasting system expresses the views of the more progressive elements in the Dutch churches.

According to IKON they were going to film the lives of people in the region of El Paraiso in the Chaleteango province. They were last seen joking and laughing with some soldiers as they started off on the last stage of their journey on foot.

IKON tonight broadcast a film it had received a few days ago from the team on the elections to be held in El Salvador on March 27.

Several hundred people demonstrated in Amsterdam in protest against the deaths. The demonstration was initially planned to call attention to the human rights situation in El Salvador.

US conducts separate inquiry into killings

San Salvador, March 19

The United States is conducting its own investigation into the deaths of the Dutch journalists, amid speculation that they might have been shot deliberately instead of being killed in a battle between guerrillas and the Army.

An American Embassy source said the investigation was motivated by an interest in human rights and was completely separate from the investigation being conducted by the Dutch embassy. The Salvadoran Government also has promised an investigation.

The embassy source said American investigators went to the billy, brush-covered region of Chaleteango province where the bodies were found yesterday, but there was no immediate indication of what if any conclusions were reached.

The bodies of the four men were taken to a medical examiner's office in the capital last night and a few hours later were taken to a mortuary. Journalists who saw them today said they had multiple head and facial wounds and that at least some appeared to have been shot several times in the face and in the back of the head. They were dressed in what appeared to be new clothes.

Two piles of bloody clothes found at what was said to be the site of the killings showed apparent multiple bullet holes. A large number of spent M16 automatic rifle casings were lying nearby.

The government said the four journalists and four guerrillas were killed in a battle between the guerrillas and an army patrol. The journalists were trying to cover the guerrilla side of the civil war here that had claimed more than 32,000 lives in the past two and a half years.

Police break up rally

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires, March 19

Police broke up a human rights rally staged by more than a thousand people in Plaza de Mayo opposite Government House yesterday. No arrests were reported in what was described by human rights activists as the biggest anti-government demonstration since the military took power in March, 1976.

The rally was attended by senior Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the Nobel peace prize winner, politicians, the "Mothers of Plaza de Mayo" who demand to be told the fate of their relatives who have disappeared, and left-wing groups protesting about the kidnapping and murder of señora Ana Maria Martinez, a metalworker and former member of the socialist party.

Nicaragua offers to negotiate

From Paul Eitman, Managua, March 19

Amid growing concern over the deteriorating military situation in El Salvador, the left-wing revolutionary Government in Nicaragua has sent out a series of strong signals indicating that it is willing to participate in diplomatic efforts to secure peaceful settlements to the disputes wracking Central America.

Despite urgent warnings that the United States is about to intervene militarily in Nicaragua, diplomats here noted that the Nicaraguan leadership has also gone out of its way to emphasize its willingness to reach a peaceful accommodation with Washington, which has accused it of acting as the main suppliers of military equipment to the guerrillas in El Salvador.

The most remarkably conciliatory statement so far has come from Senator Tomas Borge Martinez, considered the most hardline of the nine comandantes de la revolucion who form the directorate of the ruling Sandinista Front.

"We are ready to negotiate in 10 minutes", Senator Borge



Journey's end: Vietnamese boat people in Hongkong. They must stay in quarantine for six days before being allowed ashore.

Polls show crumbling support for Reagan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 19

After 14 months in office President Reagan's popularity rating has fallen slightly below President Carter's approval level after an equal period in the White House, according to the latest New York Times - CBS news poll.

The poll showed that most of Americans disagree with the President's unyielding stance on taxes and defence spending. It also showed increasing concern about the Administration's handling of foreign policy.

The main findings of the poll have been supported by another leading pollster, Mr Louis Harris, who told a meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers today that his surveys also showed the President's personal popularity dropping. "Every sign I can read from the results we are getting would indicate that support for President Reagan is going to go lower before it gets higher", Mr Harris said.

The New York Times CBS News survey found that four out of every five Americans believed that the projected budget deficit of \$91,500m for 1983 was "something he should worry about".

Fifty-three per cent of those polled favoured the elimination of the President's 10 per cent tax cut planned for this summer as a way of reducing the deficit. Forty-nine per cent backed a reduction in defence spending compared with 41 per cent who believed the Administration should continue with its huge planned increase in military expenditure.

In his recent trips to the west coast and the deep south the President reaffirmed his determination to go ahead with his tax cuts and his defence build-up. Until recently polls showed that this policy enjoyed wide support. However, growing unhappiness with the economy, particularly the increase in unemployment, has rapidly eroded that backing.

Similarly, a sudden decline in public confidence in the Administration's handling of foreign policy has coincided with the deterioration of events in Central America and growing speculation that the United States may intervene in the region.

According to The New York Times CBS News poll, approval of the President's performance has fallen from 49 per cent in January to 43 per cent now.

Mr Harris said the President's popularity had fallen from 52 to 47 per cent in favour last January, to 44 to 56 per cent.

Apparently aware of his slipping popularity, President Reagan has reacted in the same way as many a political leader in trouble by blaming the press, and in particular television for his troubles.

Earlier this week while visiting Oklahoma he told a local newspaper that the television networks were contributing to a "downbeat psychology" that could delay economic recovery.

affirmed yesterday to a group of journalists who questioned him about relations with the United States. His remarks came against the background of a flurry of diplomatic activity involving the United States, Cuba and Mexico.

Officials here today revealed that two other key figures in the Sandinista leadership, Senator Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Senator Bayardo Arce Castano, had flown to Havana on Wednesday for talks with Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader.

Chequers summit Schmidt underlines the need for unity

By David Cross

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the West German Chancellor, spent yesterday at Chequers reviewing Western economic and defence problems in what officials described as an extremely relaxed atmosphere.

The two leaders, who were meeting within the framework of a six-monthly Anglo-West German summit, concentrated much of their attention on the key topics likely to be raised during the Nato summit in Bonn and the Western economic summit in Versailles, both in June.

In a move designed to emphasize the importance of the West German summit, the West Germans attach to the need for Western unity at the Nato summit, Mr Schmidt brought along Herr Hans Apel, his Defence Minister.

At past Anglo-German summits, the cast of participants has usually been limited to ministers responsible for economic, financial and foreign affairs.

During separate talks with Mr John Nott, the British Defence Secretary, Herr Apel urged the British to explain how the Government could afford to spend thousands of millions of pounds on a revamped Trident submarine system without jeopardizing its conventional forces.

West Germans are concerned that the British might not be able to live up to all their many Nato commitments.

During their review of the world economy, both Mrs Thatcher and Herr Schmidt agreed that the West German interest rates were still much too high. During the weeks before the Versailles summit, they will be urging the American Administration to

do what it can to reduce interest rates, so that the West Europeans should be able to follow suit.

Another important topic which came up was the long-standing dispute between Britain and its EEC partners over the size of its contribution to the Community budget. During the talks Mrs Thatcher repeated her Government's determination to secure a cut in Britain's budgetary contribution as soon as possible. She argued that a long-term solution must be found which will keep Britain's contribution to a reasonable level for as long as the problem exists.

While Herr Schmidt sympathized with Mrs Thatcher's predicament, he pointed out that West Germany could not shoulder an unlimited increase in its own contribution to the budget to make up for any British cut. The Chancellor emphasized that any new financial sacrifices must be shared equitably. So far the French Government has been the most reluctant among the Ten to approve any long-term rearrangement of budgetary contributions.

EEC foreign ministers and heads of government are meeting in Brussels next week and the week after to review the whole budget problem, which is part of a Community dispute over priorities for future spending patterns.

The British and West Germans want to see their contributions to the common fund reduced and to see farm expenditure limited to make room for spending on other projects. As things stand, it seems increasingly unlikely that the wrangle will be resolved by the end of this month.

Dismal end for Buckley sanctions crusade

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 19

A dismal week for the team of senior United States officials trying to coordinate East-West trade in the wake of the Polish crisis ended here today with little indication that Europe was prepared to toughen its line with the Soviet Union.

Mr James Buckley, under-secretary in the State Department, left the European Commission after a series of meetings saying he had enjoyed a "fascinating conversation". They had talked about export credits and energy, but he would go into no further detail.

It seems that Mr Buckley's most promising offer during his talks this week in Bonn, London, Rome, Paris and Brussels has been for a tougher line on export credits. The EEC has already agreed to recommend to the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that it should put the Soviet Union into a higher category for these credits and there is now a growing view that it might be possible to delete it completely from any list of countries obtaining preferential treatment.

However, he was given a clear impression that Europe was determined to press ahead with building the natural gas pipeline linking Siberia to West Germany. He was also told that it was not appropriate at present to talk about any further restrictions on Soviet Trade above the 1 per cent cut now agreed by member states.

The American delegation came to Europe with no great hopes of persuading Europe to take a marked tougher line on the Soviet Union. Although the Reagan Administration is very anxious to see the pipeline project dropped, it has come to understand



Mr Buckley: Enjoyed 'fascinating conversation'.

that this is almost impossible in European eyes.

WARSAW: Bishop Lech Kaczmarek of Gdansk will officiate at the baptism on Sunday of the baby daughter of Mr Lech Walesa the interned leader on Solidarity, Poland's free trade union; but Mr Walesa will probably not be there, Father Henryk Jankowski, his parish priest said (Reuters reports).

Mr Walesa has been held in special isolation near Warsaw since martial law was proclaimed and his union suspended three months ago.

Mrs Danuta Walesa, Mr Walesa's wife, has said on several occasions that she believed she would not know until the last moment if the authorities did decide to release her husband. "That's the way they operate" she said.

The fact that a bishop will be officiating at the rite underlined the Roman Catholic Church's continued moral support for Mr Walesa and his pro-catholic union and came after the most forceful appeal for his release to date by Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the primate of Poland last week.

Chancellor accuses Strauss of falsities

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 19

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today angrily attacked Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the right-wing Christian Social Union leader, for supposedly spreading false impressions about West Germany in Washington.

It was dangerous for West Germany that Herr Strauss today angrily attacked Herr Strauss, the right-wing Christian Social Union leader, for supposedly spreading false impressions about West Germany in Washington.

He accused Herr Strauss of "irresponsibly putting internal political aims before the common national interest".

In a television interview from Washington, Herr Strauss dismissed the Chancellor's criticisms as foolish. The outspoken Bavarian, who recently made it clear that he wants to try for the chancellorship again at the next elections, has met President Reagan, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, Mr Defence Secretary, and other leading politicians and journalists.

With his arch-conservative, anti-communist views, Herr Strauss is much more in tune with the present Washington Administration than Herr Schmidt and has lost no time in making this clear to West Germans and Americans alike.

He told a press conference he had assured the President there was no anti-Americanism among the opposition Christian Democrat and Christian Social Union parties and that they were preparing a pro-alliance demonstration when he comes to Bonn for the Nato summit in June.

It was only sections of the ruling Social Democrat and Free Democrat parties who had bad relations with the United States. They were not typical of West Germany and were only supported by a minority of the electorate, he claimed.

Herr Strauss declared that there was deep mistrust and ill feeling towards the Government among the leading politicians had given him the impression that Herr Schmidt had lost his credibility in the United States. He conceded that no one had actually said so.

The Chancellor denied in his interview that there were anti-American tendencies here and pointed to a Gallup Poll conducted recently in which 69 per cent of the German population supported American troops and nuclear missiles was strongest in West Germany.

After the refusal of the Iraqi authorities to accept the substitution of the 7 per cent enriched variety of uranium, known under the code name "Caramel", the French Government had taken steps to ensure irradiation of the fuel would be limited, in order to prevent its misuse for military purposes.

The authors of the report admit that the quantities of 93 per cent enriched uranium delivered by France would not have been sufficient to produce enough plutonium for use in a nuclear weapon.

General Prem Tinsulanond, the Prime Minister, said he believed the attack was a reprisal for last month's military campaign.

The Thai Government estimates that about 2,000 Communist insurgents are opposing the Army in southern Thailand.

THAI BOMB BLAST KILLS 10

From Our Correspondent, Bangkok, March 19

Two powerful time bombs killed at least 10 civilians and wounded more than 50 others when they exploded today outside the Governor's office in Surat Thani, 450 miles south of Bangkok. The bombs were in a lorry parked outside the office.

Many of the dead and wounded were government officials working in the office. The Thai authorities blame Communist insurgents for the explosions which are the most serious attack on a non-military target in Thailand for several years.

General Prem Tinsulanond, the Prime Minister, said he believed the attack was a reprisal for last month's military campaign.

The Thai Government estimates that about 2,000 Communist insurgents are opposing the Army in southern Thailand.

Iraqi forces launch offensive at Susangerd

By Edward Mortimer

Iraqi yesterday announced it had begun a big new offensive against Iranian forces in the sector of Ahvaz and Susangerd, destroying the first line of Iranian defences and inflicting very heavy casualties.

At the same time the Iraqi News Agency released the text of a letter from President Saddam Hussein to President Sekou Touré of Guinea, who chairs a committee set up by the Organization of the Islamic Conference to try to get peace negotiations going between Iraq and Iran. In the letter, the Iraqi President called for the setting up of a committee to decide who was responsible for starting the war in September, 1980. Hitherto the demand for a "tribunal" to establish war guilt was a demand of the Iranian side.

President Hussein said he hoped "the truth will emerge clearly so that the Islamic peoples and world public opinion can be better acquainted with the extraordinary circumstances which caused the armed conflict".

Both the offensive and the letter appear to be part of an attempt by Iraq to persuade Iran to accept a negotiated peace rather than a fight to the finish. So far Iran has rejected any proposal for negotiations while Iraqi troops are still on Iranian territory, and is believed to be preparing a big new offensive of its own.

Paris: The experimental reactor Osirak, of the Tammuz nuclear research centre near Baghdad, which the French Government has undertaken to rebuild under certain conditions, could be misused for purposes even if a less enriched variety of uranium were used in it as fuel (Charles Harpave writes). This warning is contained in a report recently handed to President Mitterrand by a group of eminent nuclear physicists.

The Osirak reactor was completely destroyed on June 7, 1981, in a surprise Israeli air raid just as it was on the point of becoming operational. The Israelis justified their attack with the argument that the reactor could be used to produce plutonium for the manufacture of a nuclear weapon. It therefore constituted a grave threat to their security.

The 70kW reactor was of the "swimming pool" type, derived from the Osiris reactor in operation at the French nuclear research centre of Saclay, south-west of Paris. It was designed to use 93 per cent enriched uranium, of which the first consignment of 52 lb was to have been delivered by France a few months later.

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Another seal hunt opens

St. Anthony, Newfoundland

Canadian and Norwegian sealing vessels are preparing for the opening of the hauled seal hunt off Newfoundland after taking most of the quota of harp pups.

Federal Fisheries Department officer said that three of the nine sealing ships remained to complete the harp hunt. The three had 4,000 pelts to take in order to fill the Canadian quota of 57,000.

Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman left Britain yesterday at the end of a three-day state visit. He was to pay a short private visit to West Germany on his way home.

Much colder weather helped the British Transglobe expedition to resume progress towards the North Pole after days of being stranded on melting ice floes.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Kidnapper offers cash to court

Cagliari, Sardinia. — A confessed kidnapper of a British family offered to lead investigators to the spot where he had hidden his share of a 500 million lire (about £214,000) ransom payment.

"I'm ready to go there straight away", Salvatore Scano told the court.

Mr Rolf Schild, a London businessman, his wife, Daphne, and their daughter Annabel, aged 15, were taken from their Sardinian holiday home in August, 1979. The kidnappers released Mr Schild and then his wife but held their daughter until March 1980.

Signor Scano said that his share of 60 million lire was hidden with a typewriter used to write ransom demands. The trial is expected to last at least until July.

PARLIAMENT April 19 1982

Argentina withdrawal the only first step

FALKLANDS

Mr. Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, made a statement to the Commons bringing MPs up to date with the latest developments in the Falkland Islands. He said: "Our objectives remain as already stated in the House."

Mr. Pym continued (this statement went on) in his efforts to persuade the Argentine Government to agree to the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 502. His mission provides the best hope of achieving that objective. The position is one of delicate and complex negotiations. We remain grateful to Mr. Haig and shall continue to cooperate fully with his efforts.

Meanwhile we are stepping up our military, economic and diplomatic pressure on Argentina. Our naval task force is steadily approaching the area of the Falkland Islands, continuing its ability to carry out whatever tasks may be required of it.

I am glad to say that they are now on their way back to Britain. The British Antarctic Survey team, which has been in the Falklands since 1979, has returned safely to the continent.

The three British journalists arrested last week in Argentina are expected to be released by the end of the week. The British Interests Section in Buenos Aires are keeping us informed of developments.

Argentina must have no doubts about our resolve to exercise our rights to the Falkland Islands. We are making every possible effort to get a satisfactory settlement to this dispute by peaceful means.

The Government will continue to keep the House informed. Mr. Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said: "East, Lab, and Lib all welcome the decision of the Argentine Government to join the Community in sanctions against Argentina."

The Opposition shares the Government's objectives, which include the withdrawal of all Argentine troops and other persons from the Falkland Islands before Britain engages in direct negotiations with Argentina for a peaceful settlement of the status of the islands.

All of us agree that Mr. Haig's mission provides the best hope for a peaceful settlement, and I hope we shall all do everything we can to assist him in succeeding.

If an immediate agreement on sovereignty after the Argentine withdrawal can be reached — and this seems a reasonable aim — the stumbling block according to statements by Secretary of State Haig himself — will be the Government's consideration of the United Nations Secretary-General to provide a temporary administrator for the islands after the Argentine withdrawal.

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between a democratic ally and a dictatorship whose actions have often been hostile to the United States in recent years.

Can he give an assurance that the Government will not reduce its forces at present available for the defence of Belize so long as the threat from Guatemala persists?

Mr. Pym: I am grateful for what he said at the beginning of his intervention and for the shared objectives and the support that he has given to the Government. I am sure that what we are trying to achieve.

The vital thing to do first is to secure Argentine withdrawal in accordance with the security Council Resolution 502. The methods, of course, are open to discussion, but that must be the first objective.

It would be wrong at the present time to consider what might happen if the most constructive method of achieving that objective is not successful. It would be wrong to go beyond that. Every hope and every effort must be made to do everything possible to make that successful.

As for the position of the United States, it has always seemed to me that while Mr. Haig and the United States administration are trying to achieve a peaceful settlement, it would be inappropriate that they should be in any position other than that of a neutral observer.

Some people might take the view that we and the Argentine are getting this out of proportion but the principal issue is of one large country taking by invasion and military force another country. That is a position which cannot be allowed to stand.

The Argentine is acting in breach of a mandatory resolution of the United Nations and all members of the UN have an interest in seeing it fulfil its mandatory obligation.

Mr. James Wellbeloved (Bexley, Erit and Crayford, SDP): It is true that with the fleet moving towards the war zone the Government have proposed to reduce the allowances of the sailors in the fleet?

Mr. Pym: He must not believe all he reads in the papers. This is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Defence who has made public his proposals which are fair and reasonable.

Sir Nigel Fisher (Kingston upon Thames, Con): The suggestion about a UN presence, if that were offered by the UN, it might be the very factor which would make the withdrawal there could be a referendum of the Falkland Islanders and we all know what the likely result of that would be. This would be a good interim measure.

Mr. Pym: We have never suggested that the negotiations are clearly difficult and there are many proposals and ideas have been brought forward to try to resolve these difficulties. That is why the negotiations are so difficult and there are many proposals.

While these negotiations are going on, hopefully with a successful outcome, it would be wrong to go into the details of these negotiations. It would be wrong to project our thoughts, or at any rate to project our comments on public this particular situation, because it must remain our objective to do everything we can to ensure that the withdrawal is successful.

Mr. Kenneth Powell (South Down, Off UU): In view of the Government's repeated assurances that no agreement affecting the future status of the Falkland Islands will be made without the consent of this House and the Falkland Islanders, is it not clear that the withdrawal of the Argentine forces from the islands cannot be conditional upon such an agreement or on anything of such an agreement?

Mr. Pym: We have made our position clear from the outset. The status of the island and the future of the island are always attached to the wishes of the islanders we have described as being paramount. Of course, the Argentine take a different point of view and that is why the negotiations are so difficult and there are many proposals.

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gentle flag or administration being left behind.

Mr. Pym: We have substantial achievement in the United Nations by the rapid passing of resolution 502 which, in effect, refers to the point at issue and that this is not only a matter of the utmost importance to us in Britain, but of importance to freedom-loving countries all round the world. They have an interest in ensuring a withdrawal takes place as much as we have.

Mr. Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, Lab): It is not that we have a country that is getting the whole issue out of perspective — the Argentine Government by its statement that its soldiers will stay dead or alive on the Falkland Islands and that Britain by its declaration that it will shoot first when the task force arrives.

Mr. Pym: I am not sure he is right about shooting first. The Argentine invaded the Falkland Islands when we were, and the Argentine Government was negotiating with the Argentine about the future of the Falkland Islands.

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Dalyell: who are our friends? sympathy with the methods used to try and secure their success.

The Organisation of American States did not support the Argentine invasion and has since been proposed a 72-hour ceasefire. Countries have expressed sympathy with the ideas but not with the way they have been done.

Mr. Bernard Branson (South-East Essex, C): While we all appreciate the efforts of the Secretary of State, I do not think that the issue of sovereignty, which is the issue of sovereignty, is being heard by the Argentine Government.

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Branson: No preconditions. Nations solution to this kind of problem?

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Resolution must be enforced

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government was asked in the House of Lords by Lord Shackleton (Lab), spokesman for the Opposition, if it had any further steps of an international kind which might be taken over the Falkland Islands issue. Lord Shackleton, spokesman for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had repeated the statement made by the Foreign Secretary in the Commons.

Lord Shackleton said: "The House of Lords is the best place to face the fact that the terms that would be imposed on the Argentine Government will be unacceptable to the Argentine people."

He should take seriously the suggestion (he added) that we should ask the United Nations to appoint an administrator. If that was done, it would be a precondition for any discussion.

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Queen Beatrix with President Reagan at the White House

Tulips for a queen

Washington is blooming with thousands of tulips imported and planted in honour of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands who began a state visit here yesterday. (Mohsin Ali writes.)

The Queen was welcomed by President Reagan at the White House at the start of her visit, which marks the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the two countries.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

TIDE OF THE FAITH

An educational concordat between the churches and the state was not the least of the achievements of Rab Butler's 1944 Act. The financial and administrative terms for church schools of several varieties within the state system are still in place. So is the entrenchment of religious education and a daily act of worship, though both are subject to loose interpretation.

Developing argument continues about the purpose and methods of Christian education in a society that is secular in tone and religiously diverse in composition. Argument continues also about the desirability of confessional schools. On the one hand Christian schools of at least two denominations form an important part of the public provision, and there is now some movement in communities of Jewish, Muslim and other faiths to avail themselves of the same arrangements. On the other hand it is said that segregated schooling is inimical to adult social harmony, and the facile argument is heard that if only the schools in Northern Ireland had been integrated its troubles would be over.

Earlier this week in an address to the National Society (a venerable Church of England institution dedicated to the advancement of Christian education) the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of these topics. He spoke with penetration. But the most memorable aspect of his address was the tone of quiet assertion of the primacy

of the Christian religion, the confidence of faith and intellect in the truth of its claims and in their universality.

It was as if a halt was being called to the long, apologetic retreat of official Christianity before the advancing alliance of secularism and relativism; a break in the churchman's habit of concession to the demands of liberal orthodoxy. The feverish mind, dazed by the strange phenomenon of a prelate standing his ground, might fancy that it caught a distant echo of the horn of Roland from the pass of Roncevaux.

Dr Runcie's subject matter (to return to earth) was the state of religious education. Its restricted condition put Dr Runcie in mind of Gibbon's picture of the Roman Empire, in which the various modes of worship which prevailed "were all considered by the people as equally true, by the philosophers as equally false and by the magistrates as equally useful". The use the magistrate has for religious instruction, as the Archbishop also noted, changes over time. When the National Society was founded early in the last century it had the object of being able to "communicate to the Poor generally... such knowledge and habits as are sufficient to guide them through life in their proper stations...". Though less offensive to modern ears, it is no less patronizing and it betrays just as narrow an understanding of religious education to see its object as being to serve community

relations, which is a direction in which local authorities' agreed syllabuses like to point.

Dr Runcie notes others: the "creedal smorgasbord", where Christianity is served up as one item on a platter of equally valid (or invalid) appetizers; the Shakespearean equivalent, where the Christian religion is presented as a bit of our living heritage; the autonomous search for meaning, where Christianity is considered alongside agnosticism and Marxism as one of several "stances for living" which the children are invited to try out for comfort and size.

It is not the function of religious teaching in schools, to win juvenile converts, but it serves a more serious purpose than any of that. As the Archbishop says, all children of whatever cultural background "need to understand Christianity, its nature and spirit, its truth claims and its pervasive influence on their present and our past"; and while the attempt to secure commitment would be out of place in the classroom, "no serious treatment of the religious tradition could fail to make it clear that sooner or later commitment is involved".

On Dover beach the sea's sound recalled for Matthew Arnold that the Sea of Faith was once, too, at the full. "But now I only hear its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar." Yet the sea's knock and pluck is of a tide, and tides turn. Among its many voices is now audible the voice of Christian confidence.

WHY THE FRANC IS WEAK

Few foreign exchange crises have had a more unlikely starting point than that which has hit the French franc in the past week. Pressure started to build up after local elections in which the Communist Party lost ground, to the right. The foreign exchange markets often get their sums wrong, but a crisis started by a shift to the right, which would normally strengthen the franc must have deeper causes.

They are easy to find. France is pursuing a policy which is consciously, some would say ostentatiously, aimed at producing expansion. The European Monetary System (EMS), of which the franc is a part, faces growing strains because the inflation rates of countries within it have failed to come closer together. And the gloomy signals from the other side of the Atlantic are reminding more and more people in Europe of how hard it will be to get back to rapid growth.

The inflationary bite of the French government has been a great deal less dramatic than its bark. Although the budget deficit has risen and is rising, it remains relatively small by the standards of most European countries. It is far smaller than that of Germany, which most would look on as a bastion of fiscal rectitude. But whereas the majority of European countries have been trying to hold

down or even reduce their budget deficits, the French have been increasing theirs. It is the change in Government's budget position, rather than the position itself, which has been worrying the foreign exchange markets.

These worries have been made worse because the socialist government came in, after several years in which the franc had been allowed to become overvalued in an effort to force French industry to become more efficient. The previous Prime Minister, M. Rene Barre, applied to the French economy a milder version of the squeeze through high exchange rates which we have seen in Britain.

Keeping the franc high has been made significantly more difficult by developments elsewhere in the European monetary scene. West Germany's current account is moving into surplus and some of the smaller nations are in trouble. The meeting of EMS member countries in February which decided on a Belgian devaluation showed the tensions which now exist. Belgium was forced to accept a smaller devaluation than it wanted because there were fears that anything larger would provoke a new crisis for the French franc. The French, backed up by the Germans, had their way on that occasion but only at the price of admitting their vulnerability. By saying that a larger Belgian devaluation would have forced France to follow suit, the authorities were admitting how weak their position had become. It is not surprising that foreign investors have started to move their money out of Paris.

How should the French government and other European nations respond to this? It is likely that there will have to be another realignment of the EMS to bring parties more into line with their true worth. Either the Belgians and French will have to go down or, which would be less embarrassing but have much the same effect, the Germans and the Dutch will have to go up. But it should not happen straight away.

Careful use of interest rates and intervention can beat off speculation in the short term while the right policy is worked out. The foreign exchange markets have noticed that realignments within the EMS have become more common in the past year and are testing to see just how easy they are to force. If the system is to have any credibility it has to be able to withstand pressures of the kind we have seen in the past few weeks. But in the long term, the French government cannot rely on other countries' money to protect it from the consequences of its own policies.

THE SUBSIDY MUDDLE

For many Londoners, it will be back to Shanks's Pony, the bicycle and the unending guerrilla war with the traffic wardens from tomorrow. More, no doubt, will simply pay twice this week's bus or tube fare and grumble. The short golden age of low fares will be over, to the grief of the commuter and the relief of the ratepayer. In many cases, those two characters are bound up in the same person, so that the latter can comfort the former. A large minority of users, however, are tourists or live outside the GLC area, while a large minority of ratepayers, including pensioners, enjoyed no direct benefit from the policy of cheap fares. But the enforced ending of the policy will leave feelings containing a measure of regret among most who wish to see traffic in the capital running smoothly and widely available.

The state of London Transport is so dismal that even a move as rash and facile as the GLC's attempt to cut the knot raised hopes which have now foundered. There are few signs of new initiatives in prospect to revive those hopes, nor much reason for optimism about the ability of the political forces involved to take the initiative constructively. The present leadership of the GLC has shaken public confidence in the capacity of local government to administer subsidies on a large scale without yielding to the temptation to abuse its power for immediate political effect.

The government meanwhile has confined itself to scolding the GLC for its unorthodoxy, and making the minor change of confirming the council's power to continue the subsidy to pensioners.

As for the Law Lords, they have been victims of much misdirected criticism for enforcing the constitutionally valid principle that whatever a local party puts in its manifesto and whatever endorsements its promises gain from the voters, a council may only do what statute says it may do. The interpretation concerning subsidies that the judges put on the statute governing public transport in London has created a practical anomaly which can only be set right by legislation. And we now have a ruling of another court that comparable subsidies provided by Merseyside authority under the statute governing provincial transport authorities are lawful.

Until last October, London Transport had for years been losing passengers at an annual rate of 2 per cent. The fare cut has been followed by a rise at a rate of 10 per cent. Tomorrow's increase in fares is expected to bring an 18 per cent loss of traffic. It is not simply out of habit that most major cities in developed countries subsidize public transport fares at a rate at least as high as that attempted by Mr Livingstone. There are social benefits in encouraging

full use of the expensive public investment in transport services.

The GLC's mistakes (apart from misreading the law) were to concentrate on fares to the exclusion of other factors, and to pursue their course even when it became apparent that government policies would make it far more expensive to the ratepayers than had been envisaged. Fare subsidies are not enough. Reliability, frequency of service, cleanliness, convenience of routes, and integration between different means of transport are all important too. Paris, for instance, subsidizes its fares at 56 per cent compared to Mr Livingstone's 46 per cent — but its success is based at least as much on steady pursuit over the years of all these objectives together.

If the law does not allow systematic subsidy for London transport, it must be changed. But the GLC, politicized as it is and with only the rates to dip into, is not competent to hold the reins. Both Sir Peter Masefield and Sir Richard Way have called in our columns for the council's responsibility to be ended. In equity it is desirable that would be less subject to political vagaries, while allowing a closer correspondence between those enjoying transport services and those paying for them.

Redefining the teacher's role

From Mr Donald Harris and others
Sir, The question of corporal punishment has come to occupy too central, too prominent a position in the debate about discipline in schools.

The undersigned, all ex-teachers with between 24 and 40 years' experience in London primary and secondary schools, as heads and heads of departments, believe, with the benefit of hindsight (though none of us opposed it in the past) that corporal punishment ought now to be abandoned by the profession, but not without a prior drastic re-statement of the role of the teacher.

That aspect of the teacher's authority which is most vulnerable, because requiring a consensus, is the one being most undermined: namely the position "in loco parentis". The consensus here has broken down, and as you have yourself commented the farcical possibility now exists that some children will need to be distinguished (by a yellow armband) — shades of Hitler! from the rest, marking them out for derision by their fellows, to indicate parental disapproval of the cane.

In our opinion, teachers should now reject their place "in loco parentis" and the whole "pastoral" rigmarole retreating (if that is the word) to an invulnerable authority as teachers, ie, purveyors of knowledge (since there seems to be some doubt in some quarters) passing the "pastoral" buck back where it belongs, to the parents. Thus, if Johnny won't work or behave, he can go home until he changes his ways.

Of course, for this to become meaningful to the uncooperative parent who, too often, doesn't even care for his child's safety, such a measure would have to be accompanied by a parallel attack on his pocket, by loss of child allowance until he secures the required change of behaviour from his child, causing him to attend, work and behave.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD HARRIS,
ERIC H. FOSTER,
ANDREW G. KNOX,
R. MABEY,
FRED W. MATTHEWS,
HELEN W. OLVER,
E. L. WILLIS,
90 Breakspears Road, SE4.

Texteth? No

From Mr Paul Laxton
Sir, Would it spoil everybody's fun to point out that St Saviour's School, Liverpool, is not, and never has been, in Texteth? I have watched with interest the way that London-based journalists in search of a byword for bad news, have redrawn the geography of this city. Before last summer, pundits and tourists did their slum-crawling in Liverpool 8; at least that postal district more accurately defines the "problem" area and, incidentally, does contain that poor beleaguered school.

How much the reach-me-down word Texteth has grown in the consciousness of the opinion makers in the outside world may be judged from the morning's (March 19) 8.30 bulletin on Radio 4, which referred to "the Liverpool district of Texteth". Last summer, had the purveyors of instant misinformation looked at the sign at the top of Parliament Square, where the right was concentrated, they would have read the following: "Texteth 14".

Yours sincerely,
PAUL LAXTON,
The Department of Geography,
University of Liverpool,
Rexby Building, Liverpool.

Italian mail delays

From Mrs Donald Wayne
Sir, Monsignor Bruno James, in his letter of March 18, is quite right in warning your readers about the state of the Italian mails.

Friends of mine in Rome have been using the Vatican Post Office for many years, and friends in Milan go across the border into Switzerland to post their letters for abroad.

I was in Venice last Christmas and not realising that the internal mails are now equally hopeless sent three small parcels, presents to friends in Bolzano, from the Central Post Office near the Rialto on the morning of December 22. Bolzano is 165 miles north of Venice.

One parcel arrived within two weeks; one has never arrived; and the third arrived on February 2 looking, according to the recipients, as though it had been by Sputnik post to outer space and back with the contents ruined. Her letter telling me of this took six weeks to reach England.

Yours sincerely,
HELENA WAYNE,
Russett Cottage,
Mill Lane, Burwell, Cambridge.

Concern over museum

From the Chairman of National Heritage
Sir, Museums have a delicate job at the best of times in balancing conflicting responsibilities:

between the demands of academics and the needs of visitors, between a proper care for the buildings and a proper concern for the staff who have to make them work, and so on.

National Heritage applauds, and has publicly commended the courageous policy which the Natural History Museum has followed in recent years: the refusal to allow the museum to decay gently in a posture as inflexible as a frozen Siberian mammoth; the determination to think freshly about what and who the museum is for. So, however

Getting closer together in Europe

From Sir Henry Plumb, MEP for Cotswolds (Conservative)

Sir, Your consideration of "Eurogroup" and Western European Union (leading article, March 16) clearly outlines some of the major political problems which surround the question of correcting the present political asymmetry within the Atlantic Alliance. It is worth while considering the developments which are taking place within the Community as well. These suggest that increasing Europe's contribution towards her own security means more than tackling the tricky problem of European defence cooperation as such.

European political cooperation, the system whereby the foreign ministries of the member states of the Community coordinate their foreign policies outside the confines of the Treaty of Rome, has already made a significant contribution towards developing the political relations between Community member states and other European countries. This is especially important in the case of applicant states such as Portugal and Spain but it applies elsewhere as well.

During the British presidency last year it was agreed formally that the five time that security matters should be discussed within the context of European political cooperation. This was achieved despite the fact that France is not a member of the integrated military structure of Nato. It is neutral and other member states, notably Denmark, had certain reservations about proceeding along this path.

Now the Council is considering even more ambitious proposals,

put forward by the German and Italian foreign ministers last year. These suggest that the institutional distinction between political cooperation and the Community proper should be ended, "with a view to safeguarding the independence of Europe, protecting its vital interests and strengthening its security".

It is hoped that the outcome of the Council's deliberations will be one whereby the political and security aspects of Community policies, especially in the field of external economic relations, can be fully taken into account when the Community takes decisions and frames its policies of the future.

This would not of itself, increase Europe's contribution towards the Alliance's conventional forces, nor would it, of itself, prevent "decoupling" Europe and the United States. It would however, allow Europe to become more politically aware in her economic dealings with third countries. It might promote common policies towards energy supplies and East-West relations.

In this way one of the major irritants in relations between Europe and the United States could be removed. No longer would the United States feel it was dealing with a European "partner" which was deeply divided. No longer would Europeans feel that they had exercised insufficient influence on American policy because they had failed to speak with one voice.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY PLUMB, Chairman
European Democratic Group,
European Parliament,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1

Dialogue with S. Africa

From the Reverend T. H. Bishop

Sir, One of the keys — perhaps the major key — in cracking the system of apartheid in South Africa is theological. Your reference to "the Calvinist conscience which lurks at the back of the Afrikaner mind" in your perceptive leader of March 9 should remind critics in Christendom, and in particular churchmen in Britain, of this fact.

I worked in South Africa for 32 years, and I recall the late Bishop Reeves, in the early 1950s, maintaining that the transformation of South African society depended upon establishing a creative and sustained dialogue with the Dutch Reformed Church; and, because almost all the members of the Nationalist Government are members of this church, it would be necessary to bring about the dismantling of the system. This process began at the Cottesloe conference, and it remained one of the main hopes

of the former Archbishop of Cape Town, Bill Burnett, who took part in it, and was himself a South African from the Orange Free State.

Constructive dialogue is better than barren, hostile (and often ill-informed) criticism. The former process should be pursued by Christians on the spot in South Africa, and actively encouraged by churchmen here, including the British Council of Churches.

Criticism and boycotts will, as you rightly maintain, only sour the situation and lead to isolation and intransigence. Charity and sustained efforts are required if the redemption and subsequent transformation of South African society is to be achieved for all races.

I am, Sir,
Yours sincerely,
T. H. BISHOP,
Commissionary of the Bishop of George, Cape Province,
The Church of the Province of South Africa
91 Park Avenue North, NW10.

Not cricket

From Colonel Patrick Montgomery
Sir, The Reverend D. J. Pitcher (March 10) writes that Indian Law requires that equal opportunities for education and for employment be open to members of all parts of Indian society and believes that "this is in contrast to the laws which govern South Africa".

I suggest that the difference lies in the fact that, while South Africa makes no secret of its violation of human rights, the Government of India makes little or no attempt to conceal its laws which purport to defend them.

Article 23 (1) of the Indian Constitution states: "Traffic in human beings and beggar (bonded labour) ... are prohibited." Yet every annual report of the Commissioners for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes since this office was established in 1947 has drawn the Government's attention to the continuing prevalence of bonded labour in rural areas. In 1975, Mrs Gandhi, as Prime Minister, said "Bonded labour is barbarous and will be abolished".

The law is not enforced because the land-owners and money lenders whose wealth and power depend on debt-bondage, control the panchayats (councils) at village and all higher levels, the only tribunals to which bonded labourers can take their grievances. Government officials are seized by the courts and elsewhere and subsequently destroyed.

Finally, may I say that I hope that ecologists, knowing the risks involved, will take steps to inform themselves about the import requirements imposed under plant and animal health legislation — and to abide by them. Detailed information can be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Plant Health Branch, Eagle House, 30-32 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3BT.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS LOVELOCK,
Chairman,
HM Customs and Excise,
King's Beam House,
Mark Lane, London EC3.

Seeds of disease

From the Chairman of HM Customs and Excise
Sir, May I comment briefly on the letter (March 16) from Mr Malcolm Samuel complaining of lack of interest by Customs and Excise in the risks associated with the import of plants and insects which could bring diseases into this country?

This is simply not the case. We are responsible, at points of entry, for operating documentary and physical controls relating to a wide range of legislation made under the Plant Health Act 1967 and the Forestry Act 1967. We act in conjunction with the various United Kingdom agricultural departments and the Forestry Commission with whom our officers at the ports and airports are in regular contact. However, none of the regulations in force in this country requires customs officers to fumigate aeroplanes or to insist on the destruction of plant, vegetable or similar material which is found to be infested with insects or diseases.

By no means all categories of plants, material, fruit, seeds and insects are subject to import restrictions and I cannot therefore comment on whether the presence of customs staff at Gatwick Airport of the material carried by Mr Samuel was correct. However I can say that, in connection with these controls, considerable quantities of fruit, plants and similar material are seized by customs officers and destroyed.

Finally, may I say that I hope that ecologists, knowing the risks involved, will take steps to inform themselves about the import requirements imposed under plant and animal health legislation — and to abide by them. Detailed information can be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Plant Health Branch, Eagle House, 30-32 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3BT.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS LOVELOCK,
Chairman,
HM Customs and Excise,
King's Beam House,
Mark Lane, London EC3.

TV broadcasting by satellite

From Lady Falkender

Sir, The Home Secretary's announcement last week that Britain is to make an early start with direct broadcasting by satellite was quite rightly enthusiastically and warmly received. But may I write in support of what Lord Aylestone said a week ago and repeat that there is concern that there is not immediate provision for IBA and commercial television participation. I hope the Government will think again on this.

I hope they will give more information about the background to their decision. For instance, we need to know much more about the financing of the operation, not only when DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) becomes a fact but now, too, in its planning stages. Satellite providers must clearly, and justifiably, have wished for a speedy decision to go ahead, in view of the advantages for them in selling British technology in foreign markets. But I hope the need quickly, as Mr Whitelaw said, to "sign-up with the consortium" did not play too big a part in prompting the Government to give the two planned satellite channels to the BBC. After all, it has always been open to the Government from the start to encourage IBA and other commercial television involvement.

Both IBA and BBC must be in this at the start, along with the independent commercial companies; otherwise we may all be forced to conclude that this is yet another example of the "Yes Minister" syndrome. The subsequent announcement of an early start for BBC breakfast television ahead of the independent service only underlines the advantage the BBC seem to have over their rivals.

British technology, i.e. British Aerospace, Marconi, British Telecom and the rest, is magnificent. But please, Mr Whitelaw, don't become a cagey section in broadcasting who have had long experience in the hard commercial television world, where direct television broadcasting by satellite will, whether we like it or not, come to operate. This whole venture is too exciting to be confined to the IBA and BBC as responsible for the high standard of television broadcasting we enjoy in this country, and of which we are rightly proud.

Yours sincerely,
MARCIA FALKENDER,
3 Wyndham Mews,
Upper Montagu Street, W1.
March 11.

Border issues

From Mr Andrew Lambert
Sir, H. H. Asquith, when campaigning in East Fife, faced the illiterate (according to his biographer) "of being an unknown, 'carpet-bagger' Englishman". A footnote explains that "It was not then as great a disadvantage in the circumstances to be an Englishman as it would be today, when the English language and Scottish seats are very rare birds indeed."

I was glad to be reminded by the member for Central or West Fife (March 19) that Mr Jenkins is a Welshman. For the author of the Englishman (1964) now finds himself campaigning in Glasgow, Hillhead.

Yours democratically,
ANDREW LAMBERT,
105 Eton Rise,
Eton College Road, NW3.
March 19.

Palestine

From Mr Samuel Wolf
Sir, President Mitterrand's comments regarding an Arab Palestinian state are based on the erroneous assumption that such a state does not already exist.

It does. It is called the Kingdom of Jordan and it occupies approximately 77 per cent of the area of the former mandatory territory of Palestine. That this country is not called Palestine is not the fault of the state of Israel but of the British Government which in March, 1946, insisted that the eastern part of Palestine be called the Kingdom of Transjordan, and not "the Kingdom of Palestine", as the Emir Abdullah wished.

Yours sincerely,
SAMUEL WOLF,
8 Harold House,
Fitchley Road, NW3.
March 5.

Quis custodiet?

From Professor Peter Davison

Sir, I wonder if this voice from the past will offer some comfort to both sides in the abortive case over *The Romans in Britain*. Reviewing the English stage in 1897, Augustin Filon wrote (in French — the translation was made by Frederic Whyte): "Who will be censor when the Censorship has been abolished? The public itself; the public represented not only by those of its members who are the most refined, but those who are the most stupid and most compromising. In other words, the Puritans will be on the watch. And after all, why not? Are they not one of the forces of the national mind, one of the reasons of England's existence? They are the natural enemies of the theatre, and will last as long as it. When they leave it free, their end or its end will be near at hand, and England's end will be in sight. (*The English Stage*, page 310).

Perhaps all is not lost!
Yours etc,
PETER DAVISON,
Darwin College,
The University,
Canterbury,
Kent.
March 18.

Saturday Review

When he was thirteen, in the 1940s, Philip Oakes was expelled from the Bluecoat School in Wolverhampton after naming the headmaster as an embezzler. He was sent in disgrace to a Methodist run Children's Homes school in Lancashire. "Plans had been made, letters had been exchanged, my future had been decided without anyone troubling to ask what I felt about the matter. I was hurt and I was infuriated."

The next morning I woke to find someone kicking the foot of my bed. I looked up apprehensively and saw a squat, sturdy man with bright blue eyes standing over me. He wore a striped flannel shirt secured at the neck by a collar stud and a black waistcoat traversed by a gold watch chain. His arms were folded and his right hand supported the bowl of a pipe from which a blue thread of tobacco smoke climbed towards the ceiling. His posture implied that he had been waiting there for some time and that his patience was wearing thin. "All right," he said, "let's be having you. Time to rise and shine."

His name, I recalled, was Mr King. I had met him and his wife the previous evening when Mr Buller had steered me along the rutted road and through the front gate of Mossop House. "Mr King is in charge here," he said. "He's what we call the Labour Master. He makes sure the important jobs get done."

It was a flattering but not, as I discovered later, a wholly accurate description of Mr King's occupation. As Labour Master he was in charge of the casual work force of boys who had left school but had not yet been apprenticed to a regular trade. The jobs for which they could eventually train were limited to those essential to the running of the branch, but competition was fierce. There was a farm, a bakery, a boot-repairer, a smithy (which also offered a grounding in electrical repairs) and the branch stores. Only a few boys were accepted as apprentices. The rest joined Mr King's labour squad which was known as the Shop. They were responsible for sweeping the roads, moving furniture, spreading manure, mending walls, chopping firewood, clearing fields of sunken stones and laying the drains which would make them fit for farming. Everyone served time on the Shop. Older boys who were still at school were required to donate their Saturday mornings to community service. Juniors were pressed-ganged when rain threatened the hay crop or potatoes were to be planted or picked. There was no pretence that there was dignity in the labour. The work was there to be done and the chief art lay in doing as little of it as possible. I learned this in the months to come. I also came to appreciate the fathomless sloth that lay behind Mr King's busy facade. But my first impressions were very different.

As he stood by my bed I stared at his face, pricked by pores as deep as dimples. He was going bald and his scalp showed pallidly between the watered strips of hair that spanned his head, linking ear to ear as if he was wearing headphones. He had a large but firm belly and trim dancer's feet. His arms were furrowed with fine, almost invisible hair and they were as thick as the legs of pork which Mr James, our butcher at home, attacked so fiercely with his chopper. He seemed to be lost in thought, but without warning he gripped the edge of my bed, straightened his arms and tipped me to the floor. Deliberately he took the pipe from his mouth.

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service, and where she met her husband-to-be, who was one of the gardeners, and they went back there for a year or two, until her mother died and it was her job to return home, a hundred yards away, to the cottage she had been born in. There, she looked after her father and her husband and, later, her dead sister's three children. The Miggs had, as she put it, "no cuttings" themselves. She remembered the dances at The Grange, every Christmas, and Midsummer, for all those in service in the village, and the rest of the village, and the balls for the orphans. She remembered when our Moon Cottage was three cottages, each one up and one down, with as many as eight people living there. "There was never so many houses then," she said, "but there was a good few more people." Barley was a large village once. It had two



Dishonourable schoolboy

by Philip Oakes

transgress and advising me that I was under observation. Evidently I was considered a hard case, and I remembered my mother and my uncle filling in forms which they hid when I came into the room and which I had subsequently failed to intercept. In their eagerness to feed the archives they had provided me with a reputation which it would have been perilous to live up to. I resolved there and then never to come into direct conflict with Mr King.

He walked up and down my strip of the floor. "That's more like it. Now go and get washed. Shirt off and don't forget to do behind your ears."

In the washroom a line of smaller boys filed past a woman wearing a blue silk dress with a starched white collar. Her name was Sister Aggie and with Mr and Mrs King she shared the running of Mossop House. As I already knew from the pamphlets with which my mother had been supplied, the homes were largely financed by Methodist chapels and organizations. There were 30 branches situated all over the country. There was an average of 10 houses to a branch and each of them was staffed by women known as Sisters whose job was to act as house mother to small family units of boys or girls. It was not a religious order, which they belonged, but their

uniforms and titles somehow set them apart. They were like nuns or wardresses; agents of the institution. Usually two of the Sisters were responsible for the management of a house but Mossop, as I had already been told, was where they tamed tigers. It was where the hard cases were subjected to the proper discipline and Mr King was the disciplinarian.

Sister Aggie had a flushed and fleshy face and small eyes which were miniaturized still further by the thick lenses of her spectacles. Her hair straggled from a loose bun and she had a faint but perceptible moustache. After we had washed and dried ourselves we presented ourselves for her inspection, baring our wrists and necks to show they were no tickmarks. She pored over our flesh as if searching for a text which would miraculously surface the longer she looked, but she avoided touching us except for the very smallest boys. She seemed to be in a flux of embarrassment and irritation, tossing her head so that her glasses glinted and her hair spilled over her collar. When it was my turn she peered so closely that I felt her breath graze my naked back. "Your neck's dirty," she announced.

"Where?" I tried to see myself in the mirror on the wall. "There," she prodded me with her finger. "I can't see anything." "Well, I can see it," she said. "There's muck you could grow turnips in."

I sensed everyone watching me and while I tried to frame a retort Mr King sauntered into the washroom. "Any bother, Sister?" he enquired. She smoothed back her hair and lodged her glasses more securely on her nose. "No, not really."

Mr King propped himself comfortably against the wall while I scrubbed my neck with a flannel and then offered the glowing evidence to Sister Aggie. "That's better," she said. "Now you can get dressed."

"And look sharp about it," said Mr King. "It's breakfast in two minutes."

Mrs King said grace. The boys sat at four long tables, two at each end of the room, while she shared a small central table with Mr King and Sister Aggie. She was small and pale with a drooping mouth and bags like purses of lilac silk beneath her eyes. She looked as if she had slept badly and the tea-cup was too heavy for her frail hand. When she buttered a square of toast she studied it for a full minute; then put it gently to the side of her plate. Sister Aggie refilled her cup and she sipped the tea reproachfully as though

Dwellers All in Time and Space: A Memory of the 1940s is the second volume of autobiography by Philip Oakes and followed the highly-acclaimed *From Middle England: A Memory of the 1930s*. He has written four novels, among them *Experiment at Proto* and *A Cast of Thousands*, and three volumes of poetry. An anthology of his poems, drawn from those collections, will be published by Andre Deutsch in August. A journalist and broadcaster, Philip Oakes was the film critic of *The Evening Standard* and *The Sunday Telegraph* before becoming a columnist on *The Sunday Times*.



it was medicine which she was forcing herself to drink. The previous evening when I had been brought to the house by Mr Buller we had been shown into the sitting room where Mrs King sat on a low nursing chair, an embroidery frame in her lap. Mr Buller traced the design with his finger. "Roses again, I see," he said.

"The wife's very fond of roses," said Mr King. Tapestries draped over the backs of two easy chairs confirmed his observation. They swarmed with red roses and yellow roses. There were even one or two blue roses. "Does your mother do embroidery?" Mrs King asked me. "She can't. She gets headaches."

Mrs King threaded a needle with green silk and drew it through the canvas. A leaf budded beneath her hand and she smiled sympathetically. "Your mother misses a great deal. You must be a good boy for her sake."

"And for his own," said Mr Buller. "He must make his mind up about that. No more wasted opportunities." He clapped me on the back. "Go and make yourself known to the other boys."

I did as I was told. They sat in a semi-circle around a small fire in the next room and I noticed that although several of them were bigger and I presumed older than me, all but one wore short trousers. The firelight bounced off their bare knees. "She'll have them off you," said a boy whose hair stood up from his head in Vaseline quills.

"She'll have what off me?" "Them." He plucked my trouser-leg. "Only the biggest lads wear longies here."

"My mother bought these," I said. They snickered silently at the fire as if I had said something amusing. "I'm telling you," said the boy with spiky hair. "You'll be back in short pants tomorrow."

"Happen he will and happen he won't," said another boy. He wore a school blazer with a badge on the breast pocket. "Where are you from?" he asked me. "Stoke on Trent."

"That's what I heard," he said. "Like me. Best place on earth. Where exactly?" "High Lane. Near Burslem," I said. "Posh, are you?" "I shook my head. "Not a bit."

"Went to a posh school, though. That's what they say."

I was suddenly aware that everyone present knew my entire case-history and I was being studied to see whether I measured up to it. "I was expelled," I said. "What for?"

"I was a bad influence." "What's that?" "You'll have to ask them," I said. "They just wanted to get rid of me."

"Did they whack you there?" asked the boy in the blazer. "Sometimes."

"With a cane or a strap?" "A cane," I said. "On the hand."

"How many?" "It varied. Six mostly."

"They gave me a dozen once," he said, spreading his palms for inspection. "Six on each hand."

"What for?" "Smoking," he said. "How about you?" I showed them a packet of Park Drive. "Where can we have a drag?"

"In the furnace room," said the boy with spiky hair. "After tea when they've all settled down."

The boy in the blazer held out his hand. "My name's Ray Clutton," he said. "Come and sit next to me. Potteries lads should stick together." He folded my fingers over the packet of cigarettes. "Put them away, for Christ's sake. You don't want everyone to see what you've got." He looked fiercely round the watching faces. "And there's not room for all of you in that furnace room. Doss and Spiff and Skelly. That's the lot."

Doss was dark and thick-set. Spiff was the boy with the spiky hair and Skelly was tall and abnormally thin. His knuckles stood out on his hands like knots of red amber and his eyes glared as if unseen thumbs were prying them from behind. Other than myself he was the only one wearing long trousers. They were made of some dark worsted material which looked exhausted as though it had been repeatedly boiled and wrung out.

"Batley shoddy," he said, intercepting my gaze. "That's what they call it. Cheapest stuff on the market. It's for working togs mostly."

"Not like this," said Ray, fingering my flannels. "You'll get all the lasses with these. They like a bit of swank."

We shared a table for tea — slices of brown bread and margarine with one small green apple apiece — and afterwards I was led across the yard to the furnace room. It was cramped and dusty, like a shoe box stood on end. Skelly wedged the door shut with an iron rake. The furnace glowed and the wind sang in the chimney. I handed round the cigarettes and we all lit up. There was a concert of deep and dramatic inhalations.

"You want to keep it down as long as you can," said Ray. "That's how you get the benefit."

When he exhaled, his breath revealed practically no trace of smoke. "It's all gone into the system," he explained.

I thought about Mr King and his large, inquisitive nose. "Don't smell it on us?" I asked.

Ray delayed answering until he had digested another lungful of smoke. "He's not bothered about us. Not so long as we don't make a show of it. He's an idle bugger."

Just as you're told and look busy," said Spiff. "He told us that himself."

"Army rules," said Doss. "He don't want no trouble," said Skelly. "He keeps telling us not to rock the boat."

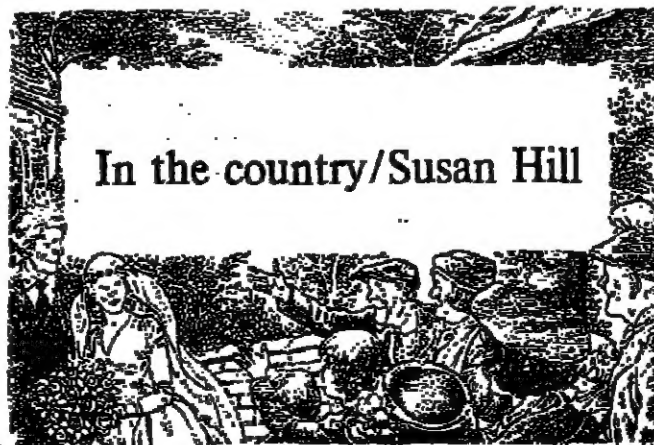
I learned that Skelly worked in the branch stores, distributing groceries to both the girls' and boys' houses. Doss was still a pupil at the branch school, but about to become apprenticed to the smithy. Spiff worked in the bakery and Ray attended a technical school at Bury. "They'll send you out too," he said confidently. "Old Buller likes to show off his bright lads."

An excited drastically, and never look the same, and we miss the sight of her, on her chair with her crochet, as we go up the lane past her door, of an evening.

© Susan Hill, 1982

Mrs Miggs in the springtime

In the country/Susan Hill



farmers, but who still live in Barley, and great-grandchildren at the village school. On the corner of Fen Lane and the slope that leads up to High Holt and the Ridge, there is a house called the Old Forge, and the farrier, Mr Dove, still occupies it, though it is no longer a forge in the strict sense, for his forge is his van, he is a

travelling blacksmith, as they mostly are nowadays. His son John is a blacksmith, too, and last Easter Monday John Dove got married in Barley Church.

We went to look on, of course, standing by the lych gate with half the village, and it was a sunny day and a pretty wedding, but even better was the ceremony

outside the Old Forge, before all the guests went over to the Carpenter's Arms for the reception, when they fired the anvil. It is not a Barley tradition. Blacksmiths all over the country have had an anvil fired at their weddings for generations and many still do.

Opposite the cottage is a low, grassy mound, on to which the anvil had been dragged. Everyone stood around it, all over the lane, and there were two big fireworks stuffed into the anvil hollows, with a makeshift fuse, a piece of tape, leading down on to the grass and across the road. A lot of fussing about, and checking and rearranging, a lot of family cameras to the ready and then the farrier and his new wife were pushed forward a little, and the farrier's father lit the fuse.

It crept slowly, slowly, towards the fireworks. The children began to get restless, everyone looked either embarrassed or worried, or a

bit cold, in the spring breeze, but expectant. Two blackbirds were singing like mad in the lilac tree above the bank, and just as someone was saying "It's gone out," there was one bang, a puff of yellow smoke, and then the second, bigger bang, and everybody cheered and applauded and clapped the farrier on the back and kissed his bride, and the blackbirds flew off, screeching, startled into the trees. The blacksmith was well and truly married. We strolled back past the pond, and up the High Street, back to the church, and climbed the steep, gravelled path between the leaning gravestones to the ancient wooden door.

There were white and pink paper petals on the ground, and spring sunshine.

That Easter Monday evening, Mrs Miggs, in her ninety-sixth year, rolled up her crochet, and took in her chair, at the end of the afternoon, and closed her

door and went to bed, early, as she always did, in the room that used to be the parlour, for she had not been able to climb the stairs since breaking her hip five years before, and in the night, in her sleep, died.

And so there was a funeral service at the church to follow the farrier's wedding, and people in Barley felt saddened, for Mrs Miggs was so well-known and liked, such a familiar figure, she had seemed immortal, and another link with the old days, the old village life, was severed. Sad too, we said, that she did not reach her hundredth year, to which she was looking forward.

Mrs Miggs's cottage is up for sale now, and it will have to be renovated and perhaps altered drastically, and never look the same, and we miss the sight of her, on her chair with her crochet, as we go up the lane past her door, of an evening.

Front Line/John Higgins

Peter Ustinov

Playing Hercule Poirot again in the Royal Command Performance Film, "Evil Under the Sun", opening in London on Tuesday

Peter Ustinov has been at his home near Geneva this week, looking out over the vineyards (his own) and listening to opera. The boxed sets by his hi-fi are not exactly familiar works: Marlow's *Dr. Vampyr*, Schmidt's *Notre Dame*, Rossini's *Semiramide*, and Bortolomew's *The Falcon*. Bortolomew was born in St Petersburg and sent to study composition in Italy. Ustinov is much attracted to the *Falcon*, written at the beginning of the last century, in which the elegant style of Pergolesi is interrupted from time to time by Russian folk-dances. He would like to stage one day, when he has put the finishing touches to his next play, *Beethoven's Tenth*.

But first Ustinov comes to London today for next week's Royal Command Film premiere of *Evil Under the Sun*, the fourth of the Bourne-Goodwin adaptations of Agatha Christie and by far the most entertaining of the quartet. The scriptwriter, Anthony Shaffer (of *Sleuth* fame), and director, Guy Hamilton (of *James Bond* fame), have turned one of Dame Agatha's drabber novels into a glossy divertissement. They have transported Sunny Ledge, Play Cove and the island "somewhere off Devon" where the Christie whodunnit is set, to the Dalmatian Coast and fixed it out with the kind of hotel and court of good King Zog might have visited in pre-war days.

Ustinov plays Poirot for the second time and turns

him into a wittier and more flamboyant figure than he was in *Death on the Nile*. After that film, Agatha Christie's niece remarked that there was not much resemblance between Ustinov's creation and her aunt's detective, to which Ustinov has replied: "Madame, I am Hercule Poirot." Well, how much of the original Poirot is there in *Evil Under the Sun*?

"Quite a lot," Ustinov replies. "The form of the story has been preserved exactly. What we've done is to put a little flesh on the bones: the original characters are often very skeletal. Poirot, for instance, is meant to be small and bald, neither can I manage easily. One at a time, perhaps, but not both together. You say that it's wittier than *Death on the Nile*. Well, that's probably right. Not a very witty place, Egypt, with all these sphinxes. It's also the difference between the two scores. *Nile* Rota for the *Nile* and Cole Porter for *Evil Under the Sun*."

The Poirot accent has also become a touch more extravagant, with Ustinov clearly relishing the intrusive "Ha" so that "E. alibi" sounds like something from the fish slab. An indication of Poirot's Belgian nationality. "I'm not sure about that. Agatha Christie only made Poirot a Belgian because someone told her that there were far too many French detectives around. With an other stroke of the pen she



could easily have turned him into a Luxembourgish. On the printed page Poirot is no more Belgian than Major Thompson is English. In language terms we probably see him as one of those foreign schoolmasters whose English is too correct — all very fluent and fluid and quite artificial. Remember that Poirot only puts the simplest words into French, the complex ones are always left in English. He remains very avaricious, very honourable and very deeply in love with himself."

The main invented sequence in *Evil Under the Sun* is the one in which Poirot swims, which means that he immerses himself in the sea up to his knees. The costume, a two-piece number, was Ustinov's invention. "I wanted one of those pre-war bathing suits which were so absorbent that wearing them was like being slapped across the skin with a Dover sole. We also wanted a break in the film: the form is as rigid as an interview, with Poirot asking all the questions and not being able to put on a bravura performance until the very end."

How many more Poirot films does Ustinov envisage? "Perhaps one more, if the production team wants it. They come at roughly five-year intervals and that's just about right for me. After the next one I'd probably have to play the part in a wheelchair, like Raymond Burr. I would think like to do a Poirot set in wartime with Hercule measuring out his

ration of powdered egg and assessing the quality of the spam."

Long before that there will be *Beethoven's Tenth*, which is likely to be seen in London next autumn. Ustinov has no great love for Broadway nowadays.

"The play is set in the home of an acid but vulnerable music critic, who has spent years and years revising his string quartet composed in the late-Schoenberg idiom while upstairs his son turns out popular songs after popular songs. The critic is also a great Beethoven expert."

One mentions a name: surely he is the model? Ustinov puts on his blandest manner: "I don't think I've ever met him. But, to resume, Beethoven walks into a household one day: he has forgotten about most of his life but the critic can put him right on all the details. He is also fitted with a deaf-aid so that he can hear his music."

"After three days he has heard his complete oeuvre and the critic asks him what he thinks of it. Beethoven pauses for a moment and then replies: 'If these works had been written by anyone but me I would fall to my knees and call him Master!'"

Had Peter Ustinov thought of playing Beethoven himself? "Well, that was at the back of my mind. But I'll have to shoo down a bit."

At Easter Ustinov goes to La Scala, Milan, to stage two-thirds of a Stravinsky Triple

Chess/Harry Golombek

Blues to win

The first Oxford and Cambridge university chess match was played at the City of London Chess Club on March 28, 1873. A picture in my *Encyclopaedia of Chess* shows a scene of go-plated splendour with masses of top-hatted spectators and even one player wearing a top hat.

Each team comprised seven players. This formula remained until the age of female liberation. Each team was then allowed one woman player, with her result counting only in the event of a tie. This year the female contest became fully valid.

This year's match was the hundredth of the series — the hundredth, that is, excluding the matches in the war years, 1940, '41 and '42, which were deemed unofficial.

The event is rightly regarded as of national interest since it has produced a crop of British champions and masters. On the whole Cambridge have had the upper hand, winning 45 matches against Oxford 37, with 17 draws. The hundredth match was played on March 13 at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, London, and was again financially sponsored by Lloyd's Bank.

Oxford won last year and its team was rightly regarded as favourites this time, headed as it was by two such fine players as the American international, Ken Regan, and our own William Watson, who brilliantly beat the Romanian grandmaster Gheorghiu in the Lloyds Bank Masters tournament in 1980. With Regan winning in secure style on top board, and John Cox beating Stuart Niman on fifth board in fine game that won him the best game prize for Oxford.

There was little doubt that Oxford would repeat last year's victory. Cambridge, however, put up a stern resistance. The Cambridge bottom board, Penelope Coxon, winning competently and being awarded the prize for the best Cambridge game.

The final score was Oxford 5, Cambridge 3. Here is how it was made up (Oxford names first): K. Regan (Merton) 1/2, Watson (Downing) 1/2, N. Ivel (Magdalen) 1/2, D. Cummings (Keble) 1, A. Bear-dsworth (Clare) 0, T. Upton (Queen's) 1/2, P. Taylor (Trinity) 1/2, J. Cox (Corpus Christi) 1, S. Niman (Trinity) 1/2, G. G. Anthony (Trinity Hall) 1/2, J. Hawksworth (Jesus) 1/2, C. Frostick (Trinity) 1/2, M. Eagle 0, Penelope Coxon (Newham) 1.

The game on first board was a good example of how to make the Modern Defence so called no doubt because it was used by Judge Meek against Paul Morphy more than 100 years ago. Quite a lot of literature has been produced about this defence

in recent years and I thought I would see how Townsend's "book" was regarded by the "book". From the early works by Ray Keene and George Botterill, published in 1972 and 1973, I gained little except the knowledge of how "to inculcate paradigms", a practice which must be useful in wet weather.

John Nunn in *The Pirc for the tournament player* (Batsford), was better and did contain the line for the first four moves. The *Encyclopaedia of chess openings*, volume B, also published by Batsford, contained nothing more than Nunn's work.

Two books I have only recently seen: the title of Jon Speelman's *Pocket Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings* (Black & Hyman, £3.50) is belied by its sketchy nature and purpose. More helpful is *The Modern Defence* by Vlastimil Hort (RHM Press, then Pitman and finally A. & C. Black, £4.50). This gives a whole section to the line together with illustrative games and is probably the best work so far on the subject.

White: K. Regan (Oxford). Black: P. Townsend (Cambridge). Modern Defence.

1 P-K4 B-N2
2 P-Q4 B-N2
3 N-QB3 P-Q3
4 B-Q4 N-B3
5 N-B2 N-B3
6 P-B3 P-Q3
7 P-Q4 0-0

Better was the immediate central thrust of 7...P-K4. 8 B-N4. Now 8...P-K4 would not be good: account of 9.N-Q5.

10 B-E2 P-B4
11 B-B6 P-B4
12 B-B6 P-B4
13 P-B4 P-B4
14 P-B5 N-B5

14...N-B5. 15 B-B5. 16 B-B5. 17 B-B5. 18 B-B5. 19 B-B5. 20 B-B5. 21 P-B5. 22 N-B3. 23 N-B3. 24 P-B5. 25 P-B5. 26 P-B5. 27 P-B5. 28 P-B5. 29 P-B5. 30 P-B5. 31 P-B5. 32 P-B5. 33 P-B5. 34 P-B5. 35 P-B5. 36 P-B5. 37 P-B5. 38 P-B5. 39 P-B5. 40 P-B5. 41 P-B5. 42 P-B5. 43 P-B5. 44 P-B5. 45 P-B5. 46 P-B5. 47 P-B5. 48 P-B5. 49 P-B5. 50 P-B5. 51 P-B5. 52 P-B5. 53 P-B5. 54 P-B5. 55 P-B5. 56 P-B5. 57 P-B5. 58 P-B5. 59 P-B5. 60 P-B5. 61 P-B5. 62 P-B5. 63 P-B5. 64 P-B5. 65 P-B5. 66 P-B5. 67 P-B5. 68 P-B5. 69 P-B5. 70 P-B5. 71 P-B5. 72 P-B5. 73 P-B5. 74 P-B5. 75 P-B5. 76 P-B5. 77 P-B5. 78 P-B5. 79 P-B5. 80 P-B5. 81 P-B5. 82 P-B5. 83 P-B5. 84 P-B5. 85 P-B5. 86 P-B5. 87 P-B5. 88 P-B5. 89 P-B5. 90 P-B5. 91 P-B5. 92 P-B5. 93 P-B5. 94 P-B5. 95 P-B5. 96 P-B5. 97 P-B5. 98 P-B5. 99 P-B5. 100 P-B5.

On my next hand, imagine that you as North have been lucky enough to cut one of the World's most skilful dummy players.

West lead the ♠. After considerable reflection, declarer plays dummy's ♠A and discards a spade on dummy's ♠Q. He continues with the ♠J which is covered by East with the ♠K. Having caught a glimpse of the opponents' hands you see that with the ♠ established for a second spade discard, either the finesse of the ♠ or the trump finesse would suffice to ensure 12 tricks. Declarer cashes with the ♠A and to your horror, continues with a club to dummy's ♠K, cashes the ♠J, discarding his last spade, and ruffs dummy's last heart before exiting with a trump. Unlucky!

This hand is a good illustration of the expert's inherent, sometimes paranoic, dislike of the finesse. There is much to be said for the initial rejection of the spade finesse, and the play of the ♠A was eminently correct. But to prefer the end play to the club finesse was distinctly against the odds. The end play requires the sacrifice hand to hold three specific cards, which is 7/1 against, compared with the even money chance of the club finesse.

Recently someone suggested that an expert with a preview of all four hands would always be able to make an accurate prediction of the probable course of events and the final result. "Not at all," I replied. He gave a deprecating cough which either meant that he disagreed, or that I must be a pretty poor sort of expert. Perhaps these two hands will convince him that sometimes Bridge can be an unpredictable game.

W N E S
17 40 No 4NT
No 40 No 4NT
No 50 No 6NT
Double No No No

North's rebid of four hearts was a gross overstatement. In the excitement of the moment, South overlooked that his side's complement of aces was one too few. West led the ♠A. Observing my ♠J, he continued with another club. A grateful South had no difficulty in making the remaining twelve tricks. "If I had played a discouraging club..." I ventured. "Oh, then I would have switched, of course," said West.

My unhappy experience was by no means unique. Many years ago, a little old lady found herself on lead against six no trumps. She too had two aces. Naturally she would have doubled, but the declarer was none other than the redoubtable Harrison Gray, who she claimed, always redoubled. She led one ace hit, to her subsequent embarrassment, did not cash the other. Skid Simon, in his own special argot, denied that the old girl was guilty of two monstrous "chucks". "If not intending to lead aces, correct not to

Theatre/Irving Wardle

Real agony

Philoctetes

Royal Exchange, Manchester

Sophocles's *Philoctetes*, the outcast champion of the Trojan expedition, is the Romantic Agony's patron saint, invoked alike on behalf of tubercular Victorian poets and the disease-obsessed Thomas Mann and Auden, who even apostrophized his gift as "dear wound".

There has been no major English revival of the play since the National Theatre's version in the mid-1950s and the first thing to be said of Michael Elliott's production

(amazingly, his debut as a director of the Greek) is that it whitties the 85-year-old Sophocles's claims as a realist. Even without the gull cries and murmuring swell of the Aegean, Christopher Stace's text uncompromisingly dumps you in the stony desolation of Lemnos, complete with the hero's feverish bandages. And the struggle to regain Philoctetes's invincible bow combines moral and psychological insight together with the highest fulfilment of the oracle.

The plot shows him as a vengeful castaway sworn against to help the Greeks and successfully resist Odysseus's plots and

Neoptolemus's generous sympathy until divine intervention finally puts him on course for Troy. There are thus two changes of heart; and the play belongs to the conscience-torn Neoptolemus no less than to its title figure.

It also carries uncanny echoes of *The Tempest*, another drama of a marooned victim, equipped with magical powers and at last reconciled with his returning enemies. Even Philoctetes's farewells to the "Greeks and promontories" of Lemnos carry the regrets of Prospero. Not to mention the visually enchanted passages where the bow passes from hand to hand.

All that acknowledged, the production has not found a key to the work. Excessive reference to I believe is Mr Elliott's directorial weakness. He has approached the text as an Olympian masterpiece, built an altar to it in the form of elaborate atmospherics (including a fine score by Gordon Crosse) and waited for the god to descend. What actually happens when the smoke clears is that some rather good naturalistic acting takes over on Laurie

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Radio/David Wade

Hod man out

Twenty years ago on radio the question *Who Was Charleston Jimmy?* (Radio 4, March 14) would have been answered with a radio ballad, but the time and the money and the people who might make such things do not seem to be there — and even if they were I wonder if the argument is quite real to anyone that radio is actually the poorer for the omission from its repertoire. However, let that not detract from the praise due to what by any good documentary feature standards was a really outstanding programme. Its producer, Alec Reid, has served up some interesting things (for example, his

preparation, setting out the piles of bricks, but after that so great was this man's skill, a wave of mortar went on in an even flow and then the bricks on top of it. No need to tap them: "Every time you hit a brick, you're losing one."

What Hawkins himself contributed to this was a narrative extremely well organized, and written and delivered with a poet's touch. But perhaps what made the programme was that he himself was and still is a bricklayer — apparently of no mean ability. Thus he understood the full worth of Charleston Jimmy's talent and could show us that this man was in a real sense both virtuoso and aristocrat.

Though understandably without the benefit of personal contributions from the participants, the repeat of Keith Davill's *Sons of the Star* (Radio 3, March 14) made impressive and sombre listening. This was an account first heard in 1978 of the isolation of the Warsaw Ghetto and what happened after, of the baseness of some who lived in it, the valour of others. On the one hand were the Jewish police, doing the Nazis' job for them; on the other, resistors who fought back and made even the SS flinch. Davill had made skilled use of memoirs and dialogue in a beautifully deliberate production by Maurice Leitch.

On the strength of programme I recommend *What Are We Doing to the Children?* Radio 4's new Saturday series about the effects of parental separation on young kids. Presenter Jenni Mills and producer Sarah Rowland had obtained some thoughtful and touching material from the parties to bust-up and not least from the child in question, young Scott, who proved articulate and with a grasp of his situation formidable in a six-year-old. There is no guarantee that the remaining programmes will be able to match him.

But surely, said those contemporaries whom we heard at the beginning, Charleston Jimmy must be dead, gone to meet the Great Bricklayer in the Sky (and on more or less equal terms, you might imagine). Not a day before the end, there he was in person, run to earth by Hawkins and describing how he did it. Much lay in

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26 March
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Friday
27 March
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Saturday
28 March
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Sunday
29 March
3.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Monday
30 March
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Tuesday
31 March
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Wednesday
1 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Thursday
2 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Friday
3 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Saturday
4 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Sunday
5 April
3.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Monday
6 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Tuesday
7 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Wednesday
8 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Thursday
9 April
7.30 p.m.
The Virtuosi
Piano
£3, £3.50, £4, £4.50
Terry Stacey Agency

Shoparound with Beryl Downing

When adrift, just build an ark

If you found yourself in Cornwall, unemployed and with nothing more than the clothes you stood up in, what would you do? When David Plagerson faced that problem five years ago his survival instinct took a fairly well-documented turn — he promptly set about building an ark.

It was not the full-size sort that in times of flood might get stuck on Porlock Hill but a hand-carved wood model, complete with Mr and Mrs Nosh and 36 pairs of animals. Since then the Plagerson arks have become so collectable that 60 per cent of his output is exported to America, and examples have been bought by the Bethnal Green toy museum and by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

Now new hand-made toys are being added to the range. There is a nativity set of crib, stable and 10 characters and a model village of 25 painted, bearded fields and roads which can be laid out in many permutations. It is based on the Cornish landscape and has six typical buildings, including a farm, pub and church.

My pick of the painted toys would be the circus. The round box forms twin tines, one fitted with a high wire, and there are two acrobats, a ringmaster, clown, two lions, an elephant, seal, horse and two poodles.

Handwork of this quality, each piece is beautifully modelled and painted — cannot be cheap. The painted ark takes a week to complete and costs from £220 to £375 according to the number of animals. The village is £89, nativity set £112, circus £127. There is also an amusing mechanical cat and mouse — the cat

sitting on top of a carpeted box and the mouse popping out of which ever hole the cat has turned from.

However, if your price range for toys is somewhat lower, several of the animals are such satisfying shapes that they don't need paint and David Plagerson is making a mixed wood set in pitch pine, mahogany, elm and beech, choosing the shapes that show off the grains to the best advantage.

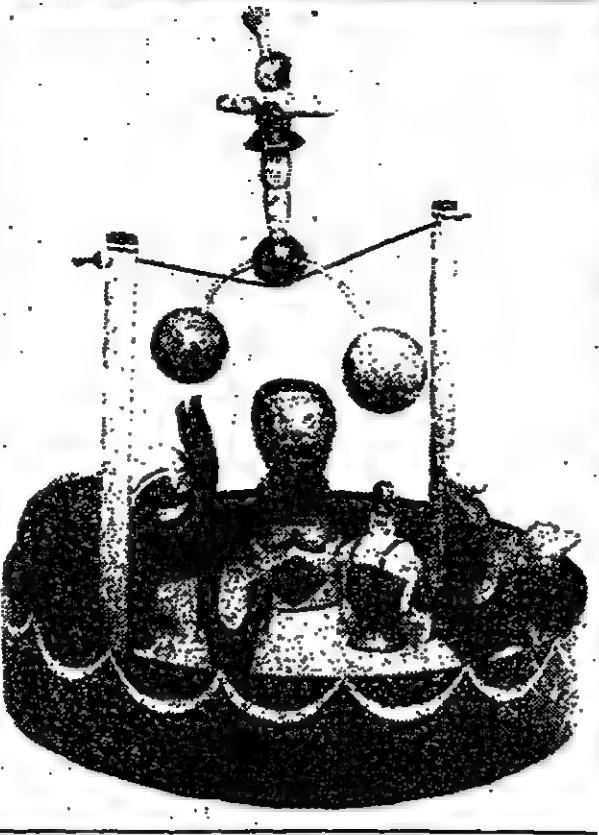
I found these just as pleasing as the painted versions. Their smooth contours are good to touch, the wood smells delicious and the various colours of wood are a delight. They are eminently collectable at £2.25 each. An unpainted ark is £37.

Don't worry that because they are unpainted they will spoil by being handled by sticky little fingers — after a fortnight or so they do look grubby, but after a couple of months they acquire an all-over patina which only adds to their effect. You could polish them with beeswax, but varnish destroys their natural look.

David Plagerson's painted arks are available from the General Trading Company in London, but the prices quoted are those direct from him at 5 Cliff View Terrace, Gannisslake, Cornwall. He will also design toys to commission, so if you have any ideas you would like to discuss, telephone 0822 833035.

Top: hand carved unpainted Noah's ark animals from a large selection at £2.25 each. By David Plagerson.

Right: hand carved and painted circus by David Plagerson, £127 (not all pieces shown).



The loose smock shape has already been made a right royal fashion for mothers to be, but it is a comfortable style in hot weather for anyone. Julian Akers Douglas makes attractive traditional smocks in natural calico with cream or stone brown smocking in all sizes from children's, aged 4 to 6 at £25 to adults; small, medium and large at £35 (£22 p.p. on all sizes). She will also make special sizes to order — her largest was for a man with a 48in chest and took three weeks to complete the smocking. Short, thigh lengths also available from Barham Farmhouse, East Hoathly, Lewes, Sussex, telephone Holland 397.

Prints for pleasure

Collectors of prints who joined the Limited Edition Club when I reported its formation last September are finding their membership is paying dividends. The first of items for sale now, includes some famous name prints at prices much lower than their current market value.

The club was formed to provide an outlet for those who had difficulty in selling their limited editions at a reasonable price. For a £12 fee, members receive regular For Sale and Wanted lists and are able to advertise in them without further charge.

The current list offers Helen Bradley's Picnic at £100 and Russell Flint's Waves at £175. The same editions are in a highly regarded print retailer's current list at £525 and £650. The club organizers do not pretend that such bargains crop up all the time, but if you want to have the opportunity to exercise your keen eyes, write for a membership form to Limited Edition Club, PO Box 17, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 4EW.

Giant step for women

It is patently clear that Longfellow had short feet. He would certainly not have gone on about leaving footprints on the sand of time if he had been gawking about in size 12 wellies. People — particularly women — with big feet cover their tracks whenever possible, having been made to feel bizarre since childhood and to pay over the odds for barge-shaped boots since they grew up.

Hence the success of Crispins, which opened at 5 Chiltern Street, London W1, in 1978, branched out to Manchester in 1980 and is planning to expand to larger premises in London this spring, all specializing in beautiful shoes in long fittings. Note the "long". It sounds so much more elegant than "big" — all part of the service provided by Dawne Gutteridge who, as a wearer of size 9, knows how sensitive people can be about their feet.

"I've had customers in tears about shoes," she says. "They have been sent to the men's department and looked on as some kind of freak just because they aren't average fittings. I know how desperate they feel. When I first started I went to Italy looking for sizes 4½ and 42 — an English 8½ and 9. They thought I had translated the numbers incorrectly, fell about laughing and offered to sell me the boxes to wear!"

It was not easy to convince manufacturers that large sizes, up to 11, could be made in the sort of styles that look stylish on small feet. Dawne Gutteridge, having been a designer of children's clothes, admits that if she had known more about the shoe trade she might have allowed herself to be persuaded that what she wanted was impossible.

But she persevered and she now has manufacturers in Italy, Spain, Finland, France and

America making specially for her. There are a few English styles and she would like to buy more, but makers here have not been particularly co-operative, despite the fact that she is now experienced enough to know at a glance whether a sample size 4 will translate successfully into 8 or 9 without looking like a boat.

Her ranges are from sizes 7 to 11 and include four fittings, AAA

to C, and although not all fittings are available in all sizes, there is a large selection of styles. Even Americans, who have a good range of large sizes and fittings, are finding that Crispins has a better design selection than they can find at home.

Prices are in the middle to upper categories — £20 to £50 in the fashion ranges, which include mostly lowish but elegantly

shaped heels for tall women, but also some high-heeled styles, all in fine calf, kid, suede or patent. There is also a Mini Prix range for young customers — £14 to £30 for sandals, espadrilles and some court shoes. Not, yet, shoes for men.

To complete the picture Crispins stock a selection of extra-long socks, over the knee socks at £2.25 in lots and colours and extra-length kid gloves at about £14. Handbags are available to match the shoes from £30.

Another shop specializing in unusual sizes, at both ends of the scale, is the Small and Tall shoe shop, 71 York Street, W1, where tall girls can find sizes 6½ to 11 in fittings AAA to D from £13.50 to £37.95 and small ones have a choice of sizes 13 to 2½, fittings B to E from £18.95 to £36.50. Again not all styles are available in all fittings.

Most of these are British-made in leather with resin soles and some styles can be made in special colours to order at an extra cost of £3 a pair. Delivery is three to four weeks.

Small and Tall offer the unusual service of supplying shoes by mail order. (Telephone 01-723 5321.) They have a brochure for each size range and shoes are sent on approval and may be changed until the exact size and fitting suits the customer. No extra p & p is charged, but a service charge is made on goods returned: £1 on shoes, £1.50 on boots and £5 on sandals.

So whether awkward-to-fit customers visit Crispins in Chiltern Street or Royal Exchange, Manchester, or buy personally or by mail through Small and Tall, at least they will not need to commit the unadornable crime of referring to their aching feet. As a suave character said in a play I saw years ago, "To say 'my foot hurts' is intriguing. To say 'my feet hurt' is simply sordid."



First-time functional

For the last five years or so, Habitat customers have been getting younger. The first faithful of the late 1960s have grown up and the new young home-makers cannot find what they want at prices they can afford. So Habitat this week launched Basics.

This is a collection of all the essentials in a first home and the emphasis is very much on pared-down prices, achieved by combining for the first time the buying power of Habitat's 33 British stores with their 15 French ones.

Designers, instead of concentrating on specialized items such as china or linen, have been commissioned to create ideas across a whole range of goods, all bearing the Basics identity and costing no more than basic prices.

The result is a range of furniture, fabrics, lighting, wallpaper, tableware and bedding which should be affordable even by first time flat sharers. It will be shown in Habitat stores from next Saturday and will be promoted for two months as a

collection. After that, items will be dispersed to their appropriate departments, but will still bear a distinctive Basics red, white and blue label so that they will be easy for bargain-hunters to spot.

There will be sofa beds at £199, occasional chairs with tubular frames and padded canvas covers at £25, ceramic table lamps with shades at £7.95, kitchen units from £22.50 for a single wall unit, striped enameled steel pans from £3.95, wine glasses 99p each, white porcelain dinner plates at £1.25 each and smart white handled cutlery at £5.99 for a seven-piece table setting.

Fabric wallpaper and blinds are in fresh, bright colours — blue, red, green and a smiling, daffodil yellow — and there are some lightweight, machine washable duvets in blue and yellow which need no extra covers, £21.95 single.

Fabrics are guaranteed for five months and a coloured leaflet will be available free from Habitat stores from next Saturday or can be obtained by post from Habitat Designs Ltd, Box 2, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9DQ, enclosing a s.a.e.

Gardening/Roy Hay

Biting back at the frost

Hardly a garden has escaped some damage by the severe frosts, but it is far too soon to assume that plants which look beyond all hope of survival are actually dead. Wait until June, at the earliest, before removing trees and shrubs and other plants. They may well have survived.

This winter has not really been comparable with that of 1962-63. I fear it has caused more severe and fatal damage because although the frosts arrived earlier, in November, the really severe frosts did not come until early in 1963, by which time there was deep snow cover.

Last year the frosts in December and January were unprecedentedly vicious and there was limited snow cover; we had 72 hours of near zero Fahrenheit temperatures. In 1962 the plants had longer to harden their growth and

were better able to survive the very low temperatures. We wait and hope.

Something I did not know is that some types of bulbs are more susceptible to prolonged and severe frosts than others. Hyacinths are easily ruined, tulips and daffodils much less so as a rule, and of course hardly ever in the open ground; only in exceptionally severe winters or if they have not been planted deeply enough.

I had not come across this problem before, but last autumn, as we have done for years, we planted bulbs in about a dozen containers; stone vases, tubs and the like. The hyacinth and the daffodil bulbs were just reduced to slimy pulp but the tulips and muscari seem to have survived unscathed. Naturally, bulbs perched above ground in tubs or other containers are more vulnerable to frost than those in the open ground. Frosts have to be more severe and last much longer to affect bulbs in beds or borders.

We have a splendidly handsome specimen of the evergreen *Eucryphia nymansensis* about 12 feet high which last year was covered with its white flowers. It looks very dead, its leaves like brown paper. If it is dead, we thought, maybe it would make a wonderful support for a climber or a honeysuckle, but our scientific friends are violently opposed to the retention and such use of dead trees. They can apparently be hosts to honey fungus, coral spot, silver leaf and goodness

knows what other diseases, as well as providing a refuge for overwintering pests. So if it is dead it will have to go, as will a camellia that has lost all its leaves and a 10ft bay tree which is as brown as a berry.

Many herbaceous plants, mainly young ones raised from seed, or plants divided and planted in the autumn, I fear may have been lost. Rather than rush to replace them now, before we can be really sure that they are dead, it may be worthwhile raising a few batches of half hardy annuals, or sowing some hardy annuals.

As I reported in 1980, Unwins offered for the first time their First Early onion sets for planting in the autumn. This is an early maturing onion, giving a high yield and is ready to harvest much earlier than onions raised from seed or from spring planted onion sets. We planted a batch last autumn and feared greatly for them when the December frosts set in but they have survived apparently without turning a hair. Unwins tell us that the hardness of these sets have been received from many parts of the country and they forecast that they will replace the Japanese onion seed varieties which we have sown in the autumn for an early crop.

They certainly will for me: 20 years ago I gave up growing onions from seed sown in spring in favour of onion sets planted in March or early April.

To specify an odd or unusual ingredient in any recipe which appears in a newspaper is to invite letters from frustrated readers. These lament the unavailability of plain as well as fancy foodstuffs in sometimes surprising places and ask for advice on suitable alternatives. So it may come as a relief that there is one fashionable spice which is now seems it would be wise to shun.

Red peppercorns, also called pink peppercorns, are described as a "symbolic spice of nouvelle cuisine" in the latest edition of the *Journal des Petits Propos Culinaires*. It reports that the US Food and Drug Administration has suspended importation of red peppercorns following tests which confirmed health risks revealed by researchers.

In an article entitled "Red peppercorns — what they really are", Mrs Alexandra Hicks asks how a spice can become so popular "and cause such excitement among gourmets and still remain not properly identified".

Red peppercorns she says are the berries of the shrub *Schinus molle* (also known as *Schinus molle*). It is a species indigenous to Brazil where it is known as *Aroeira*. Other common names for it are Brazilian pepper tree, Christmas berry and Florida holly.

Reunion in the Indian Ocean. The harvested Reunion berries are sent to France where they are processed by freeze drying, or packing in brine, vinegar or oil.

But it was the experiences of Florida gardeners who commonly developed rashes, facial swellings and even running sores after contact with the shrub that alerted the authorities to the possible risks. Children who ate more than a few berries were sick, and birds eating too many appear drunk and are unable to fly.

To be fair to *Schinus molle* it has a number of uses in the folk medicine of its native Brazil and in homeopathy. But for culinary purposes, it looks as if it may be safer for the present to stick to the true peppercorns of the vine species *Piper nigrum*.

Black, white and green peppercorns are all the berries of this plant which have been harvested at different stages of development and treated in slightly different ways. For black pepper the berries are picked before they are ripe and are dried in the sun. White peppercorns are fully ripened on the vine, then the husks are removed before they are dried. Green peppercorns are unripe berries with a milder flavour than either black or white pepper.

In Britain we find only the processed varieties sold in small tins or bottles. Though these are a good substitute for fresh green peppercorns, it is important to taste them before adding them to any

recipe because the strength of flavour can vary from pleasantly aromatic to tearfully hot.

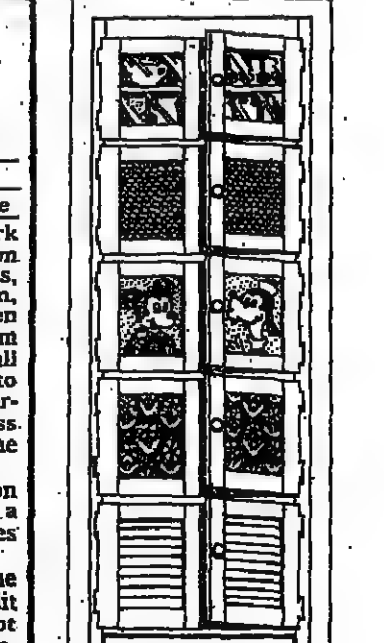
Like their red or pink namesakes, green peppercorns too have been fashionable in recent years and make an attractive addition to the taste and appearance of many terrines.

The following recipe for a pork and green pepper terrine also includes the idea of baking the pâté with a split pig's trotter on top to make an instant aspic. If a trotter is hard to find, or the idea is unappealing, the terrine can be baked without it and aspic added later, or not at all.

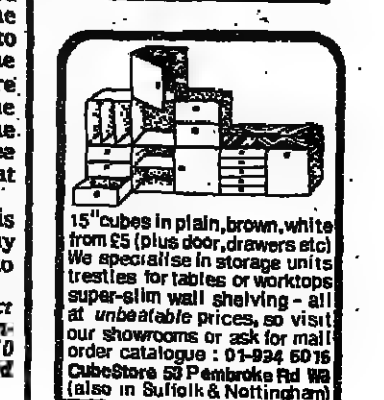
Very coarsely ground black or white pepper may be substituted for the green peppercorns, in which case the quantity should be reduced.

Pork and green peppercorn terrine. Makes about 1kg (2½ lb). 450g (1 lb) pig's liver 450g (1 lb) fat belly of pork 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped 55g (2 oz) shallot or onion, finely chopped 1 teaspoon ground mace 1 teaspoon salt 1 tablespoon whole green peppercorns 225g (8 oz) thinly sliced pork back fat or green streaky bacon

1 pig's trotter, split 1 medium onion, sliced 1 carrot, sliced



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Stock Exchange Prices

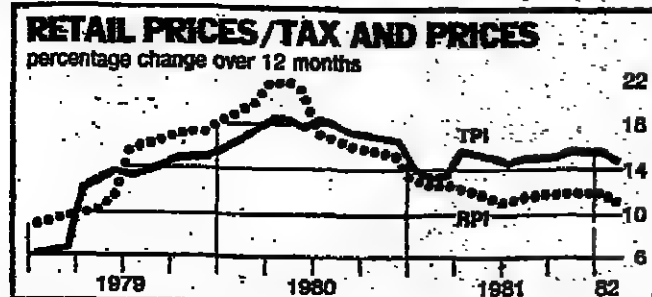
Oils firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. \$ Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 1.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

Inflation rate slows



Britain's inflation rate fell to 11 per cent in February, half the peak rate of 22 per cent recorded in the spring of 1980. The Retail Price Index did not change in February, the first time there has been no increase for 12 months. The Tax and Prices Index went up by less than 0.1 per cent to stand at 14.1 per cent above its level a year earlier.

Beckett forecasts upturn

The recent rise in Britain's exports and the effects of falling world oil prices will lead to a "light lift off" in the economy in the second half of this year with accelerating effects being felt next year, Sir Terence Beckett, the Confederation of British Industry Director General, forecast in Belfast yesterday. In his first speech since the Budget, he said the Chancellor could have afforded to cut two percentage points off the national insurance surcharge without facing an excessive borrowing requirement.

Fleming finds a formula

Robert Fleming Investment Management seems to have achieved a reorganization of its investment trusts acceptable to its main shareholders. The new plans include unitization of three of the 13 trusts — to comply with institutional shareholders' preference for a reduction in the number of trusts. A leading critic of the early plans, Mr Ian Henderson, a director of London and Manchester Assurance, which increased its stake in Fleming's United States and General Trust to block the changes, said: "I have made my peace with the Fleming's people. We have had full discussions before the announcement of the latest plans."

BP increases spot buying

BP is currently gearing up its oil buying on the spot market — at present to 25 per cent of its needs — in an attempt to cut trading losses, particularly on petrol sales. But to get a reasonable return on even this cheapest source of supply, petrol prices at the pump should be near or at 160p, Mr Ian Walker, chief executive and managing director of BP Oil, said in London yesterday.

Rolls Royce Motors is cutting its workforce at Crewe by 300 with a voluntary redundancy scheme. Two hundred redundancies will take place immediately and the rest by the end of the year. Plans to increase production have been postponed.

MARKET SUMMARY

New gilt fixed at £97.50

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.7 rose 5.9
FT Gilt 68.45 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.16 up 3.92
Bairns 18.408

Overseas buyers kept the gilt market alive yesterday despite applications for the new Government index-linked stock falling short of expectations.

The Bank of England surprised the market by fixing the opening price at £97.50, below earlier forecasts, with all orders allotted in full. The market had been expecting a sell-off with the price pitched at around £100. The news had little adverse effect on other gilt prices, but the three index-linked stocks fell by up to £1.

In long, prices were helped by the latest set of Retail Prices Index figures, and closed with gains of 4%, after 4%, while shorts closed virtually unchanged.

Equities advanced because of the continuing bear squeeze with electricals, stores and lenders leading the charge. The FT Index finished slightly below the best of the day, nervously awaiting the next set of United States money figures, closing 5.9 up at 562.7.

Oils staged a long awaited rally on hopes that the Opec ministers' meeting in Vienna would agree to cut production to preserve the present price of \$34 a barrel.

Among the leaders, rose 5p to 285p, Shell 6p to 362 and Lloyds 15p to 279p. Second liners featured the Humby Grove twins Carliss

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,065.38, up 12.58.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,207.21, up 18.92.

COMMODITIES

Cocoa and tin producers took steps yesterday to support their flagging markets. The International Cocoa Organization agreed to borrow \$75m from a group of Brazilian banks and the Saudi Arabian bank. The loan will be financed by an increase in the levy from one cent to two cents a pound from October 1. Tin producers are likely to be called upon to cut their exports by 10 per cent in the markets cocoa fell to its lowest for nine months.

March cocoa was 22s lower at 328 to 31.039. Dealers felt that the combination of higher West African and Brazilian crops and a buffer stock managers' ability to remove only another 35,000 tonnes from the market was

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 13%
3-month interbank 13 1/4-13 3/4
Euro Currency Rates:
3 month dollar 13 1/4-15 1/4
3 month DM 9 1/4-9 3/4
3 month Fr.F. 29-32

CURRENCIES

The French franc rallied from early downward pressure. The pound lost ground, the dollar late in the day.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.7995 down 105 points
Index 91.1 unchanged
DM4.3000
Fr.F11.1550
Yen439.50

Dollar Index 114.7 up 0.4
DM2.3830 up 85pts

Gold \$315.75 down \$7.25

MONEY MARKETS

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 13%
3-month interbank 13 1/4-13 3/4
Euro Currency Rates:
3 month dollar 13 1/4-15 1/4
3 month DM 9 1/4-9 3/4
3 month Fr.F. 29-32

Slow start for inflation proof stocks

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

The Government's move to extend the availability of inflation-proofed marketable stocks to all investors has got off to a slow start.

At yesterday's offer for sale by tender of £750m of 2 per cent index-linked Treasury stock, private investors gave a clear thumbs down, leaving much of the stock to be taken up by the Bank of England's own Investment Department.

Although no minimum tender price was set when the new stock was first announced last week, the Bank decided to set a striking price of £97.50. Here the real return is about 2 1/2 per cent.

Investors who applied for stock at £97.50 or above will be allotted as much stock as they applied for, all at a price of £97.50.

The Bank set its price at £97.50 because this produced a yield roughly in line with those available on the three existing index-linked stocks. The yields on these stocks have fallen sharply since the Chancellor announced that, in future, index-linked stocks would be available to all investors and not just pension funds.

While it could be argued that indexed stocks should provide protection against currency depreciation over the longer term, on the assumption that the inflation rate and the exchange rate are loosely linked, investors may well perceive that currency depreciation will lead to an upward bias in the inflation rate by many months. On that basis, they should not buy the stock.

Although overseas investors were reportedly nibbling at the existing stocks earlier in the week, many continued to be worried about the currency risk.

Franc stages a rally after early pressure

By Our Financial Staff

Most of the interest in foreign exchange markets continued to centre on the French franc yesterday. But after coming under further pressure early on the franc rallied as the day went on to close slightly firmer. Against the dollar it finished in European trading at Fr6.20.

The dollar itself was generally firm ahead of the weekly United States money supply figures. In particular, it gained ground against sterling during the afternoon, leaving the pound 1.05 cents lower on the day at \$1.7995.

In money markets the Bank of France again kept a tight rein on short-term interest rates, maintaining its intervention level at 17 per cent. But period rates eased back slightly, both in the domestic and European markets.

In London money markets interest rates were little changed in spite of Thursday's downward moves in German, Swiss and Dutch interest rates. Although good United States money supply figures over the weekend would help sentiment, the

Takeover Panel censures Holmes a' Court

By Philip Robinson

The Takeover Panel has censured TVW Enterprises, headed by Mr Robert Holmes a' Court, and the media group's Australian stockbrokers, D J Potter, for breaches of the Takeover Code in connection with the purchase of ACC shares.

It is understood that the breaches were admitted but in migration TVW and Potter said there was no intention to deceive. It is believed that the London-based stockbrokers also involved, T C Coombs & Co, will not be publicly censured.

The breaches of the code occurred between March 2 and March 5 when TVW instructed Potter to buy, through a London broker, more shares in Associated Communications Corporation.

Chase Manhattan is to raise the first public loan for Egypt since 1977. The \$200m credit which is under syndication, will be used to fund Egypt's mounting current account deficit.

The \$200m is a standby revolving credit with only two years maturity, although the Central Bank of Egypt, the official borrower, can extend the period, or even the amount, if needed.

The spread is 1/2 per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate for the first 18 months and 1/4 per cent after that. Brazil, Mexico and other developing countries

have recently paid higher interest rates on loans. Chase, which is making this loan through its London merchant banking arm, Chase Manhattan Ltd, has cultivated close connections with Egypt since the mid-1970s when its then chairman, Mr David Rockefeller, enthusiastically endorsed President Jimmy Carter's wooing of the late President Anwar Sadat.

In 1975 Chase was the first bank to set up a joint venture bank in Egypt under Law 43, the "open door policy" by which President Sadat reversed the policy of President Gamal Abdul Nasser. Then two years later Chase organized a \$250m private credit for the country.



Taking a back seat with Sir Michael Edwards are (from left) Mr David Andrews, Mr Frank Fitzpatrick and Mr Ray Horrocks.

BL still on course despite £497m loss

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, Britain's state-controlled motor group, is set to reduce its trading losses by almost half this year and is firmly on target to break even by the end of next year.

That was the message of hope yesterday from Sir Michael Edwards, chairman, who said he was "more optimistic about the company's future today than at any time in the past four years."

Sir Michael was announcing BL's preliminary 1981 results which, as expected, reveal an overall loss for 1981 of £497m compared with a 1980 deficit of £535.5m.

The loss at the trading level (before tax and interest) was £244.6m, a reduction of £50m on the previous year, which was boosted particularly by net interest charges

of £88.3m and a provision of £152m to cover restructuring and redundancy costs.

Total sales were down by £8m to £2,869m and would have been lower but for a £139m increase in overseas sales to £1,385m. BL's direct exports rose by £4m to £884m.

The group, which received £520m of state equity cash last year, has been granted a further £420m for this year and has told the Government it will need an additional £150m up to 1985. But that, Sir Michael said, would mark the end of the taxpayers' involvement and he was confident the group would cease to be a burden on the Government once it reached break even.

The target is to break even at the trading level in 1983 and at the pretax level the following year.

Sir Michael, however, confirmed his determination to leave BL when his contract expires at the end of the year and warned his as yet unnamed successor not to stay for an indefinite period.

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MONEY

Keeping ahead of the tax inspector

The Budget out of the tax diary is the end of the year and there are a number of matters to be sorted out before April 5 if you want to minimise your liability.

Pensions

A self-employed and anyone who is in a non-pensionable job should check that they have taken full advantage of the full tax relief available on contributions to a self-employed pension scheme. Tax relief is given at your highest marginal rate, and at the top end of the scale this means that the 60 per cent taxpayer obtains a 100 per cent relief for a net outlay of only £40.

For those retired in 1981-82 this could be the last chance to make a pension contribution without getting into difficulties over eligibility requirements. Maximum contribution is 17.5 per cent of "net relevant earnings" (income, less expenses) — higher for people over the age of 50.

Covenants

Parents who are paying to keep a child at university (or in other full-time education) can save 20 per cent of the child's maintenance costs by making payments to the child (who must be over 18) by a deed of covenant. A covenant is allowed tax relief (at the basic rate only) on the gross amount of a covenant, and the recipient is entitled to reclaim tax deducted at source (provided he or she remains a non-taxpayer).

The end of the tax year is a good time to set up a deed of covenant since the student's income is known and you can make fairly precise calculations how much it is worth covenanting. Making a covenant now for 1981-82 reduces the amount of time before the student is able to reclaim tax. Covenants can be made between any two people — a parent and a child, for example — but in the case of a parent, you will only be entitled to tax relief on payments made to your own children.

Assurance

If you want to obtain tax relief on insurance premiums for 1981-82, the premiums must actually be paid before 15 April.

A relief is granted at a rate of 15 per cent for

premiums paid on a qualifying life policy, up to a limit of £1,500 a year or a sixth of your income (whichever is the greater).

Husband/Wife

It may pay married couples with joint income of £17,000 or more to elect to be taxed separately. Under separate taxation (not to be confused with separate assessment) where the total tax bill remains the same but is shared in proportion between the husband and wife the husband loses the married man's tax allowance but both partners are entitled to a single person's allowance. As a result they can both claim up to £11,250 of taxable income each (1981-82) before becoming liable to higher rate tax.

If they are taxed together their joint income will clearly push them into higher rate tax bands. The point at which it pays to opt for separate taxation is where the joint income is £17,000 or more. The figure will be higher if you have mortgage interest relief or maintenance payments to set off against income.

A wife's investment income is always treated as though it belonged to her husband and you should take this into account before making the separate taxation election. You can opt for separate taxation any time up to 12 months after the end of the tax year. Those choosing separate taxation for 1981-82 have until April 5 to decide.

Golden Handshakes

Anyone being offered a redundancy payment of £50,000 or more should make up their mind before April 5. At the moment, the first £25,000 of a golden handshake is tax free and the excess is taxed at half your marginal rate. This means in effect that the maximum tax liability will be 30 per cent on the excess over £25,000.

For people made redundant after April 5, 1982 the first £25,000 of a golden handshake is taxed at half your marginal rate, the next £25,000 at three quarters of your marginal rate and the excess over £75,000 at your full tax rate.

Capital Gains Tax

The Chancellor made some important changes to CGT which we wait with at length last week. It will pay you to realize capital gains within the annual exemptions (£3,000 for the current year, £5,000 for 1982-83). But it is less clear whether it is worthwhile "bed and breakfasting" (selling and buying

back) shares to establish a capital loss. From April 5, 1982, the acquisition price of securities and other assets will be index-linked in line with inflation and capital gains tax will be payable only on the excess over the inflation-adjusted acquisition cost.

If you realize your losses, you establish a lower base line for index linking which will be to your disadvantage. In addition, index-linking does not start until one year after the date of acquisition so if you are bed and breakfasting you also lose 12 months' inflation linking. This will not matter of course if you are simply cutting your losses and selling out for good. In that case you offset any capital loss against other capital gains.

Conclusion

The calculations necessary to establish whether a particular move is worthwhile in tax terms are almost invariably complex. If you have substantial assets or income it will pay to consult an accountant. But for those left to wrestle with the problems alone, there is help available.

The Consumers Association publishes an excellent *Tax Saving Guide* every year in the March edition of *Money*. To obtain a copy you have to be a regular subscriber to both *Which* and the *Money* *Which* supplement.

The guide covers every aspect of personal taxation and gives simple worked examples and advice on how to deal with the Inland Revenue. All but the lunatic should be able to cope with their tax affairs after consulting the guide. An annual subscription to *Which* magazine and *Money* *Which* supplement costs £15 including post and is available from the Consumers Association, Caxton Hill, Hertford, SG13 7LZ.

Slightly more technical — but equally straightforward — is the *Hambley Tax Guide*. This costs £8 and is published by Queen Anne Press, Macdonald & Co, Paulston House, Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7LW.

The provisions for relating back pension contributions to previous years are complicated and if you feel you cannot deal with them, a pension consultant or registered insurance broker (not to mention insurance company representative) will be delighted to help.

Insurance companies are a mine of free information on Capital Transfer Tax, Life Assurance relief and pension relief.

Lorna Bourke

Meagre return on new issue

The new twenty-fourth issue of National Savings certificates, announced by the Chancellor on his Budget speech, will be a disappointment to investors. It goes on sale on April 19 and offers a tax-free return of only 8.32 per cent over the five year term. Maximum investment is £2,500.

At this level the new certificates are unlikely to appeal to anyone but those who pay tax at the top rates. But the society investors can currently earn 9.75 per cent net of basic rate tax on an extra interest account, and although building society interest rates are not fixed, the immediate appeal of an extra interest account is considerably greater than this rather dismal new offering from National Savings.

If basic rate taxpayers really want to tie up their money for five years, they will do much better with a five year income bond, currently available with a return of 11.7 per cent net of basic rate tax from Crown Life (see *Money* *Market* for other income bonds).

Higher rate taxpayers who have already bought the maximum holding of previous issues of National Savings certificates, might be tempted to bite at the 24th. But the new issue of index-linked gilts is likely to prove a better bet. The allocation price of £97.50 announced yesterday gives investors inflation proofing for their capital plus a real return of about 2.25 per cent a year.

Compared with the 24th issue certificates with index-linked gilts, unless you believe that inflation is going to run at less than 8.9 per cent over the coming five years, the index-linked gilts must be a bargain.

National Savings has also announced extension terms for holders of 8th and 12th issue National Savings certificates which are not very appealing. The return over the coming year is equivalent to 8.4 per cent. Basic rate taxpayers should cash in any 12th issue income bond which offers 10.5 per cent (see *Family Money* Market).



Grimsby fishermen: they will be happy with the scheme which nets them a guaranteed minimum pension.

A lifeline for fishermen

Grimsby fishermen who regularly face the elements to ensure our supplies of fresh fish can set forth with renewed confidence in their future. The Grimsby Fishing Vessel Owners' Association has set up a pension scheme for its 900 member fishermen on an industry-wide basis, removing the problem which comes with frequent job changes.

All employers will contribute 5 per cent of an employee's earnings up to £10,400 a year to the fund and the fishermen will be able to make tax deductible contributions of their own on a voluntary basis to boost their pension.

The scheme which is being managed by Save and Prosper offers a guaranteed minimum pension and contributions will be invested in Save and Prosper's Managed Pension Fund.

Industry-based schemes — rare compared with the more usual employer-run pension funds — get around the problem of reduced pension benefits for carpenter. With an industry-based scheme, the job-changer remains a member of the same pension fund and suffers no reduction of his benefits when moving from one firm to another.

Pensioners may earn more under new rules

Pensioners, the sick and disabled will be pleased at the prospect of higher state benefits in November. But this is not the only improvement. The Chancellor has also raised the limits on the amounts which can be earned while receiving benefits.

By far the biggest group to benefit will be pensioners. At present they are allowed to earn just £52 a week. Above this limit, set almost three years ago, their pension starts to be reduced. From November, the earnings limit becomes £57.

Most pensioners will tell you that there should not be an earnings limit at all, and indeed the Government has said it is committed to ending the rule, but only when economic circumstances permit.

Presently, the single pension is £29.60 a week. Earnings below £52 a week do not affect it. Earnings of £52 to £57 cut the pension by £2, and as earnings increase beyond this, the pension is cut on a 10p for 10p basis. Weekly earnings of around £64 are enough to cancel the pension.

From November, the pension will be £32.85. Using the same formula, but based on the new £57 level, the pension will be lost when earnings reach £92 a week.

Where a wife is under pensionable age, her husband's earnings can cut into any extra pension he gets for her. At present, a married couple's pension of £47.35 a week is lost when earnings top £102 a week; from November, when the pension will be £52.55, the earnings needed for the pension to be lost will be £112.

This rule applies to men aged between 65 and 70, and women between 60 and 65. Over those ages earnings, however high, do not affect the pension.

Not only will pensioners benefit from the raising of their earnings limit, others collecting different state benefits will also find themselves better off.

For example, anyone getting invalid care allowance

while looking after a sick or old person is only allowed to earn £6 a week. If earnings go over this, the benefit stops. This limit has been in force since 1976 when invalid care allowance was first paid. This limit will double.

Those who are sick or get a tonic too. Anyone who receives sickness or invalidity benefit is allowed to take on part-time work of a "therapeutic" nature, provided their doctor approves and the Department of Health and Social Security agrees. Presently, there is a limit of £16.50 a week on the amount which can be earned. This will go up in November to £20.

Ian McDonald

Lloyds loans cheapest

Lloyds Bank, the last of the big four high street banks to cut its home loan rate, announced this week a 1.5 per cent reduction bringing its home loan rate down to 13.5 per cent.

This makes Lloyds home loans the cheapest. Monthly repayments on each £1,000 borrowed over 25 years from Lloyds work out at £11.54 compared with £11.75 from a building society or £11.72 from Lloyds' nearest competitor, Barclays.

Although Lloyds home

loan rate of 13.5 per cent is the same as that quoted by the building societies, the true rate of interest on a building society loan is higher because they calculate interest at less frequent intervals than the banks. The Director General of Fair Trading is currently reviewing the building societies' exemption from the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act which require lenders to quote true interest rates according to a fixed formula.

FAMILY MONEY MATTERS

Banks

Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays, Lloyds and National Westminster offer 10 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £5,000-£25,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed deposits — 1 month 12 per cent, 3 and 6 months, 12 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds

Simco 7-day fund, 13.63 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 14 per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 13.5 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.37 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-782241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank

Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent. First £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal. Maximum investment £200,000. "Reducing to 13 per cent on April 1."

National Savings Index-linked certificates

Maximum investment £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in

Local authority town hall bonds

Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr 13%, 4.5-6.14%; 2 yr 13%, 7 yr 14%, 3 yr 14%, 8.5-10.14%.

Finance for industry

Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

Finance for industry

Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13% p.a.; 5-7 years, 13% p.a.; 8-10 years, 13% p.a. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-828 7822).

Finance house deposits

Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 12% p.a.; 1 year, 12% p.a.; 2 years, 13% p.a. Foreign currency deposits — interest paid without deduction of tax.

Local authority yearling bonds

12-month fixed rate investments, interest 13% p.a. basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

US dollar (call) 12% p.a. 12% p.a.

Yen (2 years) 3% p.a. 3% p.a.

D. Mark 6% p.a. 7% p.a.

French Franc 13% p.a. 13% p.a.

Swiss Franc 1% p.a. 1% p.a.

* Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

MONEY TALK

Campaign to promote new homes

Britain's housebuilders are preparing to spend as much as £100,000 this year to change their image through the launch of the New Homes Marketing Board. They have been joined by material producers and energy authorities. The aim of the new marketing board is to sell more new houses by assuring us that building standards have been vastly improved and that the claim "they don't build houses like they used to" is outdated.

Through publicity campaigns, including a major national competition, builders are setting out to woo buyers on to development sites to convince them of the benefits of new houses.

According to Mr Richard Dibben, president of the House-Builders Federation, "New houses have suffered for too long from the negative images which are a hangover from the 1950s."

Leeds follows

One hundred per cent loans for house purchase are now available from Leeds Permanent Building Society. Leeds joins Abbey National and Bristol & West as the third major society to offer this facility.

Leeds will lend up to 100 per cent of the purchase price on homes costing up to £30,000, 95 per cent up to £40,000, 90 per cent on homes costing up to £50,000 and 85 per cent above this figure. As always there is a catch.

You have to be prepared to fork out for the premium on an insurance policy to indemnify the building society in the event of the society incurring a loss. On a £25,000, 100 per cent loan over 25 years the insurance premium would be £132.50.

Gilts interest

Reader interest in index-linked gilts has been running high, but there still seems to be some confusion on how the interest is adjusted for inflation. For example, here is how the March 1983 payment on the new 2 per cent index-linked Treasury Stock 1988, will be calculated.

The base from which the rate of inflation is to be calculated is July 1981. If inflation does what the Government says it will, then the rise in year to July 1982 will be 9 per cent. There is an eight-month time lag before this is applied to the interest payment.

The coupon is 2 per cent, so interest for the six months to March 1983 — interest is paid half-yearly — will be £1 per £100. That £1 is adjusted for the 9 per cent increase in inflation. Nine per cent of £1 is 9p, so the inflation adjusted interest payment will be £1.09.

Aiming for capital

Royal Life is launching two new unit trusts which will aim to provide investors with capital growth rather than income. Royal Life International Trust and Royal Life Equity Trust will aim for long term performance, with both trusts taking an interest in the electrical and electronics industries and some of the specialized chemical and pharmaceutical companies, as well as natural resources stocks.

The International Trust will invest mainly in Japan and the USA, with small amounts in Australia and Canada.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCL	13%
Consolidated Crds.	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 2 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and over 11% p.a. £10,000 and over 11% p.a. £50,000 and over 11% p.a.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	P/L	Yld %
129	100	Ass Brit Ind. CUTS	129	+1	10.0	7.8	—
75	62	Alfrington Group	75	—	4.7	6.4	11.6
51	33	Arnlage & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8
205	187	Bardon Hill	199	+1	9.7	4.9	9.7
107	100	CCL 11% Conv Pref	107	—	14.7	—	—
104	63	Deborah Services	63	—	6.0	9.5	3.1
131	97	Frank Horsell	127	—	6.4	5.0	11.4
83	39	Frederick Parker	81	—	6.4	7.9	4.1
78	46	George Blair	53	—	—	—	—
102	103	Ind Prec Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8
109	100	Isle Cons Pref	109	—	15.7	14.4	—
113	94	James Burroughs	107	—	7.0	7.2	3.1
334	248	Robert Jenkins	248	+1	8.7	7.6	8.3
61	51	Scrummors "A"	64	+1	5.3	8.3	8.3
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1
15	10	Twinklark Ord	13%	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklark 15% ULS	75	—	15.0	19.0	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5
103	73	Unilock Alexander	79	—	6.4	8.1	5.2
263	212	W S Yeates	228	—	13.1	5.7	4.3

Prices now available on Prestel page 48116

Advertisements criticized

Advertisements for the ASA (Advertising Standards Authority) have been criticized by the ASA itself. The ASA has been accused of "advertising itself" and of being "a policyholder of its own advertising".

DOLLAR

One of the six decisions made to the ASA by the Financial Institutions was that the ASA should be a policyholder of its own advertising. The ASA has been accused of "advertising itself" and of being "a policyholder of its own advertising".

INVESTMENT OF A LIFETIME

£595 → £4,956 IN 1992
£975 IN 1997
£19,197 IN 2002
£37,779 IN 2007

Compare £595 invested into this plan with similar alternative investments based on current interest rates.

Investment Period	Friendly Society	Building Society	Ordinary Gilts	Guaranteed Bond	Index-linked Bond
10 years	£ 4,956	£ 4,427	£ 4,244	£ 3,934	£ 4,533
15 years	£ 9,754	£ 7,377	£ 6,856	£ 6,094	£ 7,642
20 years	£19,197	£12,282	£10,518	£ 9,477	£12,883
25 years	£37,779	£20,481	£16,178	£14,931	£21,716

Small tax liability for higher rate taxpayers

Less for higher rate taxpayers

NO TIME IN APPLYING

FULL DETAILS

ask

ry Law

Towry Law & Co Ltd

Licensed Solicitors in Securities, Companies and Bankruptcy and other financial matters

Do & dependent Financial A

Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton

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Wolverhampton

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

MILLS AND ALLEN

Selection strategy pays off

Mills and Allen International, the money broker, is concentrating on the business it knows best.

In the six months to December, the group, which is headed by Sir Ian Morrow, pushed profits ahead by £1m to £6.22m because of a rise in earnings from the financial services division. This included first-time contributions from its companies in West Germany and the United States, which were bought last spring. Group turnover in the period was up £2.9m to £29.9m.

At the attributable level profits are boosted by £1.74m, which, after tax and expenses, comes from MAI's disposal of its stake in Lestrat. MAI sold its 9.9 per cent shareholding after it failed to gain control in a contested bid last year which the Swedish group Eselste finally won. So attributable profits are £4.99m compared with £2.7m last time. Earnings per share are 12 pence higher at 25.9p.

Profits from MAI's media contracting division were similar to the previous year with higher profits from its Far Eastern media company offsetting reduced profits from the United Kingdom and Belgian outdoor advertising interests.

In February two deals, worth £21.6m, brought the group Guy Butler, the United Kingdom money broker, and the Chapdelaine Group, a



Sir Ian Morrow, chairman of MAI

leading United States Government securities dealer. Once these are merged, money broking should contribute two-thirds of profits.

MAI's poster and advertising wing has also made further acquisitions. In January it bought 85 per cent of the David Koffel Group, one of Australia's leading cinema advertising contractors. Earlier this month it paid £1.5m for Foster Publicity Holdings.

Last year the posters side made £483,000 before tax and net tangible assets were £313,000.

The half-year dividend has been lifted to 8.57p, gross from 7.14p, but the group's shares dropped 10p to 518p.

WARING & GILLOW

Stores cutback
With trading conditions remaining extremely difficult

furniture retailer Waring & Gillow managed only a 2 per cent increase in turnover to £42.4m in the six months to September, as operating profits slipped from £337,000 to £348,000.

After exceptional items of £655,000 relating to property disposals half year profits before tax were £1m against £2.6m in 1980, when the sale of the Regent Street store contributed £3.4m.

The board has undertaken a complete review of trading activities leading to the closure of a number of stores, largely in cities which had both a Waring & Gillow and a Maples store.

There are further closures to come both at home and in France, where losses from Maples operations have been largely halted. But in the United States the group with which Mr John Cussins, managing director, hopes to see making a contribution to profits by next year.

Although there has been no improvement in trading in the second half, tight control on expenses and significant cost savings will be fully felt in the next financial year, the board says.

The dividend for the half year is held at 2.14p gross. Earnings per share fell from 21.9p last time to 6.78p.

GEORGE OLIVER

Small advance
George Oliver (Footwear), which recently beat Ward White in a takeover contest for Hiltons Footwear with an agreed £9.8m bid, reports a small profit advance to £1.5m in the year to December.

This compares with £1.1m in the previous year on sales up by £5m to £17.5m. The final gross dividend is lifted to 5.71p making a total payment of 7.44p against 6.29p last time.

An extraordinary credit of £380,000 compares with £18,000 last time. Earnings per share are depressed at 18.11p compared with 18.37p. Other, with a chain of 300 retail outlets after merger with Hiltons, agreed in January to sell properties worth £7.8m to the National Water Council Superannuation Fund.

This followed the group's announced policy last November of selling a shop portfolio of least £3.65m, which was intended to give Oliver the money with which to pay for Hiltons.

On the basis of dividends totalling 5.75p forecast for the year to April, this offers a prospective yield of 5.87 per cent at the issue price, and a net price earnings multiple of 13.6 on forecast pretax profits of £2.2m.

AIM GROUP

Offer for sale

AIM Group, which manufactures aircraft cabin interiors, is coming to the market through an offer for sale of four million shares at 140p, representing 38 per cent of the equity, and valuing the group at £14.7m.

On the basis of dividends totalling 5.75p forecast for the year to April, this offers a prospective yield of 5.87 per cent at the issue price, and a net price earnings multiple of 13.6 on forecast pretax profits of £2.2m.

The group is one of the leaders in its field of supplying a complete package to airlines. Although the group also has interests in mechanical and electrical contracting and in manufacturing microwave ovens, the directors expect the aviation division to remain predominant.

This is expected to come partly from the replacement of aircraft, partly from the growth in the market for commuter aircraft, and the rest from defence spending by Western governments, the directors say.

The offer for sale, being made by County Bank, includes 500,000 net shares which will raise £340,000 net as additional working capital. Brokers are Cazenove, and the offer closes on March 25.

BIDS AND DEALS

Research Surveys of Great Britain, a subsidiary of AGB Research, has acquired a 20 per cent stake in Q.E.D. International Marketing Research Services. Q.E.D. consumer research company, established in 1967, is moving research. Although the major part of its revenue is in the UK, substantial business is transacted in Germany, France and Italy. Mr Alan Harvey and Mr Nigel Spackman, joint managing directors of Q.E.D., become directors of Q.E.D.

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CAPITAL MARKETS

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Edited by Peter Davalle

ITV/LONDON

Myself and My Camera: useful hints for the tyro
9.30 Cartoons; 8.45 God's Story; Moses and
the Bush; 10.00 Help Me: An analysis of
scripture; 10.30 How Can You Really
Know? Interview with the Venerable
Bhaddanta Indira, founder of the Western Buddhist
Order; 11.00 Getting On: extended-care hospitals;
10.30 Singapur: pulp adventure story; 12.00
Weekend World, El Salvador: pre-election report;
10.30 Skin: First in a new series of black
documentaries. Muppets; 1.00 The Media and the media;
1.30 The Glass Depression: Final film in Godfrey
Haggard's series about the repercussions of
the 1967 stock market crash. It asks: could it happen
again?; 2.30 News headlines. Then, The Big
Action from three days of yesterday's
league games; 3.30 The features of Black
people: a musical comedy by a kindly tramp (Derek
Akbar) and his Bowler (?).

- 4 **Cartoons:** From the United States.
- 5 **Film: *Decoy*?** (1963) British-made wartime drama about a British crew who capture a German submarine and embark on a dangerous voyage to rescue Edward Judd, James Robertson Justice, Laurence Payne.
- 6 **Love:** First of four films presented by consultant psychiatrist Jack Donlon. Today: Love form birth to puberty. The establishment of loving relationships with parents and family. Next week: adolescence to marriage.
- 7 **News** from ITN.
- 8 **Sunday Best:** Religious entertainment. The star guest is Harry Secombe.
- 9 **The Fall Guy:** Drama series about a Hollywood stuntman and bounty hunter (Lee Remick).
- 10 **Father Charlie:** Lionel Jeffries as a cockney chaplain in a convent. Tonight: a case of lumbago that is misinterpreted as something much more serious. Anna Quayle plays the Mother Superior.

90 Around Whickers World in 25 Years:
Another compilation of filmed reports by
seasoned globe-trotter Alan Whicker. *The
wife of a cosmetic surgeon, tells how her
husband gave her a new lease of life. There is
also the Hollywood's most powerful woman,
studio chief Sherry Lansing; Bulch
Cassidy's sister, Lula Parker Benson and, the
San Francisco policewoman who turns
herself into a little old lady.*

90 Whips Aesop's tale: Part two of this
polished, setfire word shows how the world
could plunge headlong into the final war.
Tonight: more about that plot to put a Shah
back on the throne.

90 The South Bank Show: A film about the
British composer Peter Maxwell-Davies
whose work divides both critics and public.
Extracts from some of his works are
performed.

90 London News. Then another in the Vet
series.

Close. Dr Anthony Starr on inspiration.

Radio 1

8.00am **World Service**, 10.00 **Nostal**
Edmonds, 1.00 **Jenny Sherrin**, 3.00
Studio B15, 5.00 **Top 40**, 7.00 **The**
Record Producers, 8.00 **Sounds of**
Jazz, 10.00 **Close**, 11.00 **Rare Tracks 1 and**
2, 12.00 **World News**, 1.00 **World**
News 1, 10.00-5.00 **with Radio 2**.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in
Western Europe on medium wave 603-610
kHz. **Monday**, 1.00 **World News**, 3.00
Newspaper, 7.00 **World News**, 7.09 **News**
After Britain, 7.15 **From Our Own**
Correspondents, 7.30 **World News**, 7.55
7.45 **News of the Engagements**, 8.00 **World**
News, 8.05 **Reflections**, 8.15 **The**
World, 8.20 **World News**, 8.30 **Review of**
the British Press, 8.45 **People and Politics**, 9.45
Scores Review, 10.15 **Editorial**, 10.20 **World**
News, 10.30 **Commentary**, 11.00 **World News**
11.00, **News After Britain**, 11.11 **Slender**
from America, 11.15 **Upbeat**, 11.20 **World**
News, 11.25 **World News**, 11.30 **World**
News, 11.35 **People and Politics**, 11.45
1.30, **Short Story**, 1.45 **The Sand**, **James**
Requiem, **Shostakovich**, 2.30 **Sound of Day**, **The**
York Link, 3.00 **World News**, 3.05 **Commentary**
Half, 4.00 **World News**, 4.09 **Commentary**, 4.15
From Our Own Correspondents, 4.30 **World**
News, 4.35 **World News**, 4.45 **World News**,
4.50 **Meridian**, 8.00 **World News**, 8.05
8.10 **Commentary**, 8.15 **The**, 8.15 **The**
Pleasant, 10.00 **World News**, 10.05 **Section**
in Action, 10.40 **Reflections**, 10.45 **Sportscast**,
11.00 **World News**, 11.05 **Commentary**, 11.15
Letter from America, 11.30 **Britify**, **International**
12.00, **World News**, 12.05 **News About**
the World, 12.10 **Commentary**, 12.30
Religious Service, 1.00 **Captain Cook**, 1.45
Short Story, 2.00 **World News**, 2.05 **Review of**
the British Press, 2.15 **World News**, 2.20
2.30 **A Man of Pleasure**, 3.00 **World News**,
3.05 **News about Britain**, 3.15 **The Instrument**,
Musical, 3.30 **Anything**, 4.00 **4.00**, 4.00 **Newscast**,
4.45 **A Pattern of Faith**.

TYNE TEES | ANGLIA

WORKSHIRE

As London except: Starts 9.00 am
 9.55-10.00 Butties, 11.00 am and My
 Cane, 11.15-11.22 Farming Diary.
 1.00 pm God's Story, 1.15 University
 Challenge, 1.45 Calendar, 2.10 New
 Bed and Barney Show, 2.20 Big
 Game, 3.30 Sitings, 4.00-5.00 Film:
 Battle of Austerlitz (Peter Mondy).
 7.15-8.15 Hart to Hart, 11.30 Great
 Depression: America, 11.45 pm Five
 Minutes, 12.35 Channel.

CHESHIRE

As London except: Starts 2.08-2.30
 pm Gardens for 3.00-4.00 Gardening
 4.00 and My Camera, 9.30 Lowe, 10.00-
 11.00 Sesame Street, 11.30-12.00
 About Gaelic, 1.00 pm Sunday
 Service, 1.50 Farming Outlook, 2.00
 God's Story, 2.15 University
 Challenge, 2.45 Glen Michael
 Cavalcade, 3.30 Incredible Hulk, 4.30
 Sportsport, 5.30 Family Fortunes, 6.00-
 6.30 The Eighth Step, 6.45 Late Cafe
 11.35 New Avengers, 12.30 am
 Closesdown.

SCOTTISH

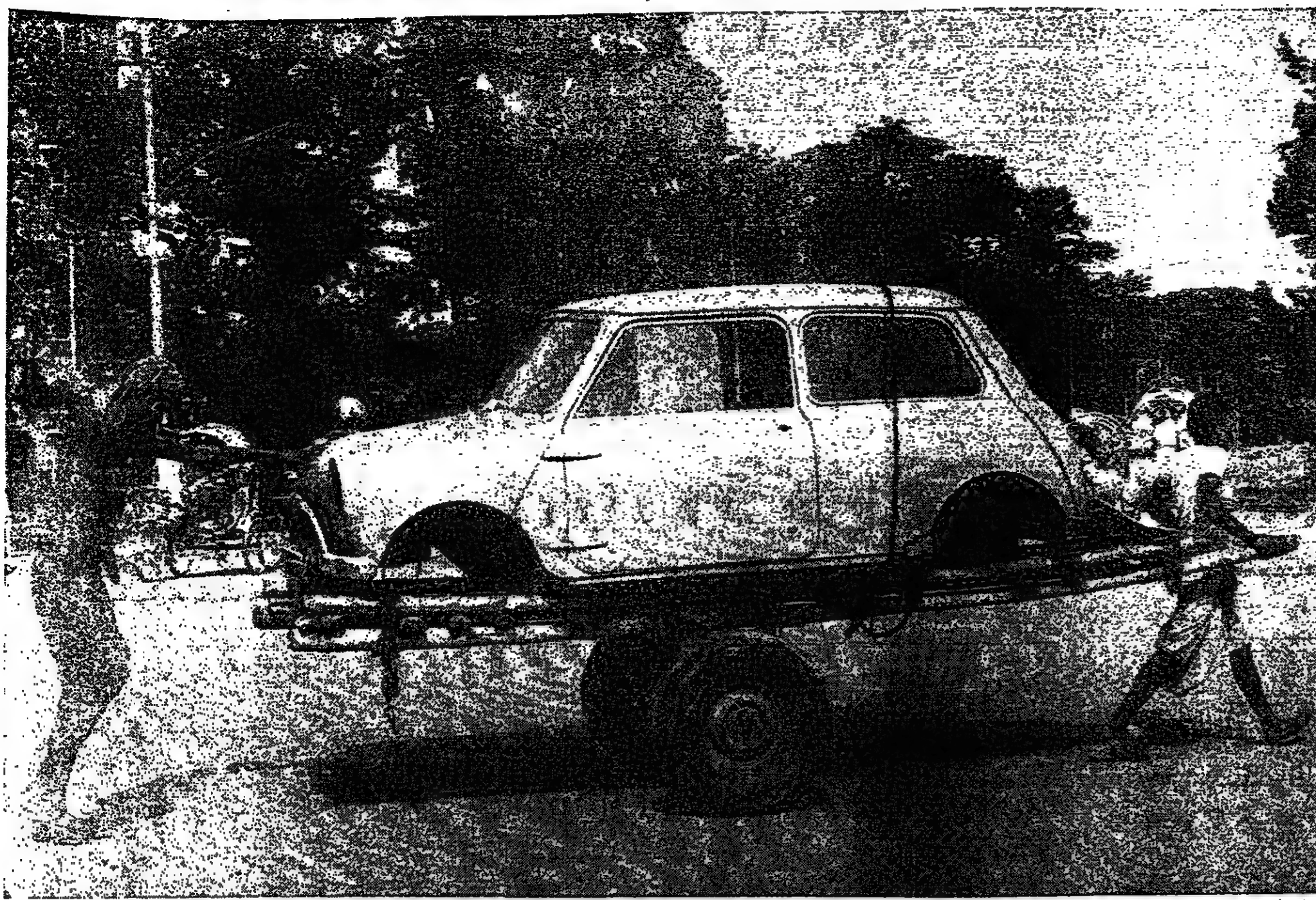
As London except: Starts 9.05 am Ma
 and My Camera, 9.30 Lowe, 10.00-
 11.00 Sesame Street, 11.30-12.00
 About Gaelic, 1.00 pm Sunday
 Service, 1.50 Farming Outlook, 2.00
 God's Story, 2.15 University
 Challenge, 2.45 Glen Michael
 Cavalcade, 3.30 Incredible Hulk, 4.30
 Sportsport, 5.30 Family Fortunes, 6.00-
 6.30 The Eighth Step, 6.45 Late Cafe
 11.35 New Avengers, 12.30 am
 Closesdown.

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY



SCOTLAND'S
NUMBER ONE
QUALITY
SCOTCH WHISKY

Memsahib mini, this is your life...



This mini is the motor of life. It saw the light at Longbridge in 1958. It spent its first three years bustling about in the gentle green hills of Suffolk. Then it was sold to an American fashion model living near the King's Road (Philip Howard writes).

Eventually the model decided that she had enough of swinging London and that California was where the action was. She sold the car to an accountant from Harrow who gave it to his wife to ferry their children to school.

The accountant prospered and his wife got a new Fiesta hatchback. The mini was bought by a student in Sussex who used it to get to London for parties and demonstrations, usually with three large supporters in the back and banners in the front seat. The student qualified and got a comfortable job in advertising. He sold it to a window-cleaner, who sold it to a bus conductor, who sold it to a milkman, who had it stolen from the front of his house in Kentish Town.

The joyriders abandoned the old mini on Hampstead Heath, a carcass for car-vultures, until it was sold to Messrs Khan and Khan (Shippers), who whisked it off to their agents in Dacca. Tom Learmonth photographed it leaving their yard to be carried across town from workshop to workshop, until it is reborn as good as new.

An exhibition of Learmonth's work called Underdeveloping Bangladesh opens at Camerawork Gallery, 131 Roman Road, London, on Tuesday.

Investment failure of London Transport

Continued from page 1

set as the high rate of subsidy is reduced and higher fares are set, while some staff are introduced on trains and platforms in the face of increased crime.

But while productivity in Paris improved with an improving system, LT's fall in the system was cut back to match falling demand. Passenger miles per employee fell by 14 per cent in London between 1970 and 1980 to 87,443, against around 170,000 in Paris.

Even within Britain, LT did not perform well. Figures prepared by GLC officials show that while British Rail and the bus industry significantly improved vehicle miles per employee in the 1970s, LT did not, although recently there has been some improvement.

In 1980, the GLC calculated, LT's operating costs would have been £40m lower if the productivity levels of 1970 had been achieved, and £60m lower if the 1960 levels had still held; before the introduction of one-man buses and the automation of signalling and some other Underground operations.

The reasons seem to lie in part in London's particular problems, in government failure to invest in management change, and in a failure to adopt lessons learnt by other undertakings in fares policy and structure.

During the 1970s, one-man operation of buses became almost universal, but not in London. Eighty per cent of all buses run by large operators are now one-man operated, but in London the figure is only 47 per cent. About 7,200 conductors are still employed.

LT also employs a similar number of bus engineering staff, where critics say other operators have saved costs by contracting out more work, and that LT's approach to engineering on both buses and Underground, where 12,000 engineering staff are employed, is a hangover from the days of profit.

As a result, London employs more staff for every bus than any other large operator in Britain. Figures prepared by Mr Martin Higginson and Mr Peter White, of the transport studies group at the London Polytechnic show that in 1980 West Midlands buses, which are all one-man operated, employed 347 staff per bus, against 526 in London.

LT can point to the different size of its undertaking. Large bus operations appear to be inherently more inefficient than small ones. Mr Higginson, however, says: "One of LT's failings is that it is not very receptive to ideas from outside. It has convinced itself it needs conductors on the busy central London routes but West Midlands, for example, has already proved that things can be done which LT is convinced are impossible. A quarter of its passengers use season tickets, which means that at peak times when commuters are travelling about half the passengers use them. That means faster fare collection.

Zonal fares also speed fare collection and encourage the use of season tickets. Their introduction with Fare's Fair is one benefit that will survive the fare increase. The zones, however, have yet to be fully matched to the Underground zones.

On the Underground, the issue of one-man operation is even more fraught, though the potential savings are smaller.

A combination of half-hearted investment and the inability of management to get the unions to agree to its operation, has meant that London has lagged behind international levels. In a recent survey by LT staff, 45 out of 27 underground train operators ran on single-man, while five others mixed single and double manning. LT is one of those five, running single-man trains only on the Victoria line. The other four operators expected to move over shortly to complete one-man operation, but not London.

Despite ensuring that every train ordered since 1963 is equipped for one-man operation, no progress has been made. There is no agreement with the unions to run them.

The outline agreement for a three years ago provides for a 7.5 per cent increase for staff who could be promoted to driver, as soon as the system comes in. As a result, it would cost London Transport about £2m to bring in one-man operation on those lines that have been equipped, but the savings would be only about £500,000.

Leading article, page 7

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

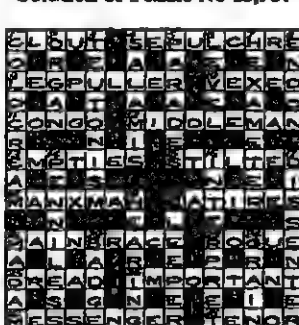
New exhibitions

Picasso Prints, Edinburgh Printmakers' Workshop, 23 Market Street, Edinburgh. Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; (from today until April 17).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,779



Solution of Puzzle No 15,784

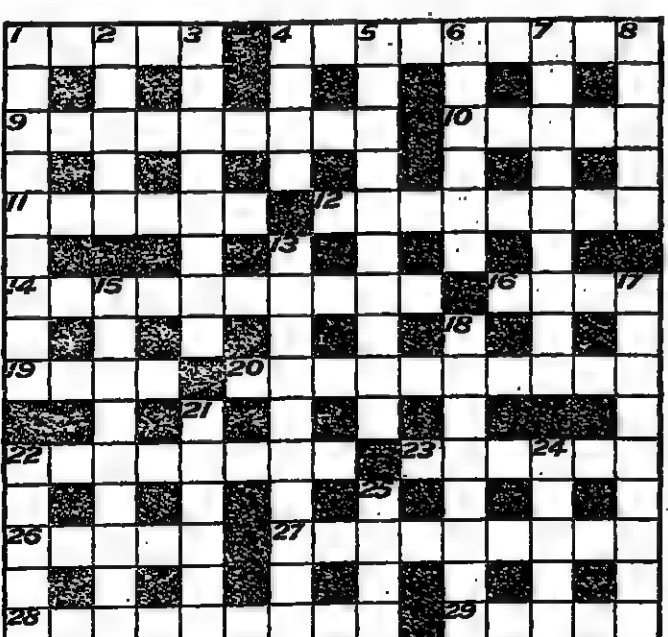


The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,785

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9ET. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winner of The Times Crossword Competition No 15,779 on Saturday, March 13 was Mr M. J. McStay, 9 Oakbrook, Brighton Road, Slough, Hants.

Name
Address



- ACROSS
- Containers for fires (5)
 - Goings-on in trains have broken promise (9)
 - Bird in barber's charge (5-4)
 - One who walks back to cover the same ground (5)
 - X wrong in return game (6)
 - Henry's holding revolting flower (8)
 - Centaur's mate seen in Banbury? (10)
 - Objections rejected in the end (4)
 - Swindle - police are after an artist (4)
 - Indeed noble, an auditor (10)
 - Order - I alter about 50 orders (8)
 - Write quickly and sketchily at first; then go slowly (6)
 - Arterial road leads to Downing Street - the centre (5)
 - Forged letters from Marian to a lover (9)
 - Flier crashed in motor-car after 1 left (9)
- DOWN
- One who spreads out litter (9)
 - Do listen to one of the family (5)
 - Aren't its forms narrow? (8)
 - In a word, see the swelling (4)
 - Row out of port - a mentor for Mowgli (10)
 - Servant - holding king and knave (6)
 - Has rector arranged for some entertainers? (9)
 - Cloth the Spanish reject (5)
 - Arrange in a fold (10)
 - Souvenir article included - so what's left? (9)
 - Virago's weapon (6-3)
 - A big hit shortly to be seen in Hong Kong (5-3)
 - Military display also includes a race (6)
 - Firm note to a Tory paper (5)
 - First of all, go faster and further (5)
 - Shy players (4)

Gardens open

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Oxfordshire: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock; gardens designed by Henry Wise and Capability Brown, fountains, Italian gardens, French terraces; Churchill Museum; garden centre (11.30 to 5 daily until October 31); Shakespeare: The Old Parsonage, Munsell, Craven Arms, 10m from Ludlow, 12m from Bridgnorth, 2 acres garden, fine shrubs. (Visitors welcome at any time.)

Sussex: Denmans, Denmans Lane, Fontwell, 5m from Bognor, Chichester and Arundel; walled garden planned for all year round interest; glass areas, plants for sale. (Every Saturday and Sunday until October 31, 2 to 6.)

Gloucestershire: Rylands House, Raynham, 8m W of Gloucester; railway between Huntley and Newent; many rare plants, wild garden, woodland, plants for sale (2 to 6).

Lincolnshire: Wheelabout Wood, 3m W of Spalding; 42 acres of trees, many rare trees and shrubs, map and tree key available, plants for sale (1 to 6).

Somerset: Broadleigh Gardens, Barr House, Bishop's Cleeve, 3m SW of Taunton; 4 acres nursery specialising in dwarf bulbs and unusual herbaceous plants, plants for sale. (2 to 6.)

In the garden

Prune winter flowering jasmines as soon as they have finished flowering, also *durandii*, which should have last year's growth cut back to within about six inches of base to avoid it becoming gaunt and leggy. Cut back raspberry canes by about a foot; if affected by frost, cut back into sound healthy wood. Prune gooseberry and red currant bushes may also be pruned now.

Plant fruit bushes and strawberries in next two or three weeks; perpetual or "remontant" strawberries planted soon will crop this year. Autumn fruiting raspberries such as Zeva will also give a small crop this year.

Plant early and second early potatoes in mild southern areas - wait until mid-April in Midlands and North.

R.H.

Mothers' Day

Tomorrow is mid-Lent Sunday, in the Church's terms Mothering Sunday, and now commercially known as Mothers' Day. Its origins can be found in a 17th-century Epistle for the day (Galatians 4:21) "... Jerusalem, the mother of us all ... even thou that destroyest the prophets and the culls of the Earth-Mother. For centuries the custom has been for young people on this day to bring some small gift for the mother - a single cake, a round plum cake, knodden up with saffron and curcuma - was at one time a favourite. Herrick addressed Diannem saying "I'll to thee a smothering".

Anniversaries

Ovid was born at Salmoine, 45 BC and Hendrick Ruben at Skien, Norway, 1629. Henry IV died in London 1643 (succeeded by his son, Henry V). Sir Isaac Newton died in London, 1727. Tunisia gained independence, 1956.

Johann Sebastian Bach was born at Eisenach, 1685, and Jean Baptiste Fourier, French mathematician, at Auxerre, 1768. Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, was burned at the stake at Oxford, 1556. Robert Southey died at Keswick, 1843.

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Roads

London and South-east: A20: Roadworks tomorrow near Maidstone, Sussex. Earls Court area likely to be congested due to local House Exhibition.

Midlands: M6: Lane closures between junctions 1 (Rugby) and 2 (Coventry). Birmingham city centre likely to be congested due to football match; congestion also on A41, West Bromwich, and on M5, junction 1. Avoid Leicester town centre from 2 to 5 this afternoon - Demonstration.

North: A59: Temporary signals at Skipton, Yorkshire. A684: Delays at Leeming Bar, N Yorks. A30/A303: Horse trials at Alden Park, Yeovil; congestion likely. A55: Roadworks at Boole roundabout, Chester.

Wales and West: A420: Width restrictions at Lawrence Hill, Bristol. A30/A303: Horse trials at Alden Park, Yeovil; congestion likely. A55: Roadworks at Boole roundabout, Chester.

Colwyn Bay by-pass.

Scotland: A74: Stop/go boards on Carmunnock Road, Busby, Strathclyde. North Street, Glasgow closed tomorrow; diversion. A67: Temporary diversion and single line traffic with lights SW of Inverary.

Sea

Sealink, Holyhead/Dun Laoghaire services suspended.

The papers

The Daily Mail says "the economy remains at last to be moving into a virtuous circle - a prospect which should put a spring into the step of Mrs Thatcher and give a boost to the rest of us as well".

La Stampa foresees "hot days ahead" for Western European currencies on foreign exchange markets until the end of March, blaming the Bundesbank because it blocked EEC proposals for a new two of the European Monetary Union, which would have made greater use of the European unit of account.

Stamp duty

New help for house buyers comes into effect on Monday with the introduction of a new scale of stamp duty on house purchases. The exemption threshold is raised by £5,000 to £25,000 on purchases between £25,000 and £30,000; 1% to £30,000 to £35,000; 1.5% to £35,000 to £40,000; 2% to £40,000 to £50,000; 3% to £50,000 to £100,000; 4% to £100,000 to £200,000; 5% to £200,000 to £500,000; 6% to £500,000 to £1,000,000; 7% to £1,000,000 to £2,000,000; 8% to £2,000,000 to £5,000,000; 9% to £5,000,000 to £10,000,000; 10% to £10,000,000 to £20,000,000; 11% to £20,000,000 to £50,000,000; 12% to £50,000,000 to £100,000,000; 13% to £100,000,000 to £200,000,000; 14% to £200,000,000 to £500,000,000; 15% to £500,000,000 to £1,000,000,000; 16% to £1,000,000,000 to £2,000,000,000; 17% to £2,000,000,000 to £5,000,000,000; 18% to £5,000,000,000 to £10,000,000,000; 19% to £10,000,000,000 to £20,000,000,000; 20% to £20,000,000,000 to £50,000,000,000; 21% to £50,000,000,000 to £100,000,000,000; 22% to £100,000,000,000 to £200,000,000,000; 23% to £200,000,000,000 to £500,000,000,000; 24% to £500,000,000,000 to £1,000,000,000,000; 25% to £1,000,000,000,000 to £2,000,000,000,000; 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93% to £50,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000; 94% to £100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £200,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000; 95% to £200,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000; 96% to £500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000; 97% to £1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000; 98% to £2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £5,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000; 99% to £5,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000; 100% to £10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 to £20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

The Pound

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.78	1.79
Austria Sch	13.29	13.30
Belgium Fr.	32.00	32.00
Canada \$	2.27	2.28
Denmark Kr	16.16	16.16
Finland Mark	8.65	8.65
France Fr	11.65	11.65
Germany DM	4.49	4.49
Greece Dr	116.00	116.00
Hongkong \$	10.90	10.90
Ireland £	1.26	1.27
Italy Lit	2410.00	2410.00
Japan Yen	164.00	164.00
Netherlands Gld	4.94	4.94
Norway Kr	11.38	11.38
Portugal Esc	121.00	121.00
South Africa Rd	2.22	2.22
Spain Ptas	163.75	163.75
Sweden Kron	10.44	10.44
Switzerland Fr	5.59	5.59
USA \$	1.86	1.86
Yugoslavia Dnr	92.00	92.00

TUC seeks to block Howe's jobless scheme

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The TUC is to use its influence on the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) in an attempt to resist the government's plan for a community works scheme for the long-term unemployed.

The three TUC members of the commission have been briefed to argue at a meeting tomorrow that the scheme, announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Budget speech, has a number of serious implications adverse to the interests of trade unions and unemployed people.

A Congress House report on the plan suggests that despite the government's declaration that participation will be voluntary, ministers may be intending eventually to withhold benefits from unemployed people who do not take part.

The TUC paper also claims that the project, which is seen as providing 100,000 places at a cost of £150m, could be converted to "discretionary" terms and conditions determined by collective bargaining, and to provide "a cheap adult labour force for employers to exploit".

The discussion of the plan comes as the MSC, employers and trade unions are talking about a replacement for the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP), which will swallow up the lion's share of government expenditure on employment measures.

An MSC task group held a conference on Saturday at the Civil Service College at Sunningdale, Berkshire, to discuss the Government's plans for a compulsory scheme for jobless school-leavers, aged 16, who would be paid £15 a week.

MSC officials have made clear that they favour a more comprehensive programme, covering those aged 17 as well, which would incorporate a total training package, including further education, apprenticeships, skills training and work experience.

The Government wants to see a new programme ready for next year to replace YOP, and further meetings of the task group, comprising MSC officials and both sides of industry, are to be held shortly to solve problems in the total training package. The MSC will have to convince the Government that the scheme is good value.

for the approximate £1,000m annual cost, and there are also legal difficulties in creating a new status of "trainee" for young people.

The Congress House report on the long-term unemployed scheme was approved last week by the TUC's employment policy and organization committee, chaired by Mr William Keys, one of the three TUC commissioners, all of whom will make their opposition clear when the commission debates the government proposals tomorrow. The other two are Mr Kenneth Baker and Mr Kenneth Graham.

The TUC argues that the community works project will create a divisive two-tier level of special provision for unemployed adults by paying them about £30 a week, including expenses, compared with wages of up to £89 a week in the Community Enterprise programme.

Payments would be unattractive, the TUC officials claim, because the Government would be inviting the adult unemployed to work on a community project for their unemployment benefit and a refund of expenses they incurred.

The confidential TUC paper also expresses concern that the Government is expecting local councils, as well as voluntary organizations and churches, to run community projects with volunteers. This is said to raise the question of possible "substitution of voluntary workers for properly recruited and paid staff in public and community services".

The TUC complains that the Government has refused to double the number of Community Enterprise programme places to 60,000, and urges the MSC to formulate proposals for improving provisions to the long-term unemployed.

In a letter to Sir Richard O'Brien, MSC chairman, on March 9, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Government fully shared concern about the plight of the long-term unemployed.

Explaining the Chancellor's announcement, Mr Tebbit added: "Many people have pointed to the absurdity of the situation in which many people registered as unemployed would be willing to do something useful



Warm hands join to defend the peace

Wood fires were essential to keep warm and dry last night as women anti-nuclear demonstrators began a 24-hour blockade of the Royal Air Force base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire, in protest against the proposed siting of American cruise missiles. Groups of women took it in turn to sit down in the roadway, blocking the six entrance gates to the base (Peter Waymark writes).

Ms Lesley Boulton, one of the organizers, said the action was

intended to be peaceful and the women had been instructed not to resist arrest. She added that they would not try to stop children attending the American school at the base or to prevent emergency services getting through.

The protest was organized by members of a women's peace camp which was established outside the main entrance at Greenham Common last September. Some 15 women have been living there in tents and caravans. The blockade

was the climax to a festival of life at the base attended by nuclear disarmament supporters from as far afield as Scotland, Yorkshire and South Wales. Thames Valley police estimated the attendance at 5,000. Many arrived in coaches and brought babies and young children.

Throughout the day the six entrances to the base were the focus of activities including religious worship, music and dancing and poetry readings.

I did it for Britain, Mrs Whitehouse says

By Richard Evans

Protecting Britain's image abroad was one of the main reasons for Mrs Mary Whitehouse's private prosecution against the director of *Four Romans in Britain*, she said yesterday. She reaffirmed that she does not know where she will obtain the money to pay her legal costs, which are said to run to thousands of pounds.

The trial of Mr Michael Bogdanov, the play's director, on charges of procuring and being party to a simulated act of homosexual rape between actors in the play, ended on Thursday after the Attorney General had intervened.

"The key point to what I did is that this was the

National Theatre... the theatre that belongs to all of us, which gives an image of Britain to the whole world.

"I love Britain I care for what the world thinks about Britain. I do not want the world to look at what happens on the National Theatre stage and say 'Good Heavens, the British really now are in a state where they can do that on the National stage, and nobody cares'. I do care. That is why I did what I did," she said.

Mrs Whitehouse, who was interviewed on the BBC radio programme, *Sunday*, said she was not worried about the money that would be needed to pay the legal costs of her prosecution.

The hidden dangers of high blood pressure

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Between 15 and 20 per cent of adults in Britain may have high blood pressure, but few are aware of it, a book published today says.

Adults should be encouraged to have regular blood pressure checks, and machines to register blood pressure could usefully be installed in stores, airports and railway stations, it suggests.

Doctors and patients should work closely together on treatment because some drugs which control blood pressure have unpleasant side-effects, so it may be necessary to experiment with several until a suitable one is found.

The book's authors, Dr Eoin O'Brien and Professor Kevin O'Malley, codirectors of the blood pressure clinic at the Charitable Infirmary, Dublin, suggest that finding the right drug may take four or five visits. But it is worth persevering because proper and continuous treatment greatly reduces the risk of strokes and heart attacks.

Changes in life-style are also recommended. Giving up smoking is the most important, followed by weight watching and avoiding excess salt in the diet.

High Blood Pressure: What It Means For You And How To Control It (Martin Dunitz, £2.50).

NEWS IN SUMMARY

BR to run Coniston service

The National Trust's 1895 steam yacht, *Condola*, which it restored in 1980 for more than £100,000, is to be operated on Coniston Water this year by British Rail Sealink.

Mr Laurence Harwood, the trust's regional director, said yesterday that because of heavy losses incurred by the trust in running the service for two seasons, it either had to get another organization to run it or shut down.

Sealink will manage it for a year, during which time a five-year agreement will be worked out. British Rail will carry any losses, but will share half of any profits with the trust. "We shall still own the vessel," Mr Harwood said.

Mr Glyn Morgan, Windermere's Sealink manager, said an hourly service would start in April 28.

Plea for prison library funds

The Isle of Wight County Council has told the Home Office Prison Department that unless it increases the funds for library services in the three island prisons, the present facilities may be withdrawn.

A council report says the services at Parkhurst, Albany and Camp Hill prisons cost the island four times as much as its Home Office allowance.

Raiders set fire to mansion

Burglars who stole thousands of pounds of antiques early yesterday from a seventeenth-century mansion, Rudd Hall, near Caterick, North Yorkshire, set fire to the house as they left (our York Correspondent writes).

The house was the home of the late Lt-Col. Charles Tyson and his widow, Mrs Connie Tyson, who is aged 88 and lives in a private nursing home. Two rooms were badly damaged and paintings and furniture destroyed.

Crane victim named

A man who died when he was trapped in the cab of a crane which fell into the Manchester Ship Canal on Saturday was named yesterday as Mr Leon Clowes, aged 36, of Northern Rise, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. He was married.

Laker plan 'would have failed'

By Michael Kailly

Transport Correspondent

Sir Freddie Laker would not have got the licences for a People's airline for which he suddenly withdrew his application on Friday, airline experts believe. They had already written off the venture, though not the man, for the foreseeable future.

It was not just that the application by Breathe, Laker's shell company, was short of essential financial information. It lacked the necessary assets to be taken seriously at this stage.

One official commented yesterday: "In order to grant an air operator's certificate, the Civil Aviation Authority needs to be satisfied that the applicant's staff and equipment meet the necessary standards. Breathe have neither aircraft nor staff, nor an operating base." Laker's maintenance hangars at Gatwick were taken over by British Caledonian recently.

But the CAA's hearing on May 4 will go ahead despite the withdrawal of Breathe's application for Laker's former scheduled licences to New York, Los Angeles, Florida, Zurich and Hong Kong, and its charter licences to Canada and Europe.

The purpose is to hear British Caledonian's application for Laker licences to Los Angeles and Zurich, with an objection from British Airways to the former and a rival application from Dan-Air for the latter.

British Caledonian confirmed yesterday that it would not apply for a New York or Florida licence for the time being, but it remained an option for the future. The main reason is that Los Angeles can be operated with existing equipment whereas New York and Florida would require additional capacity.

Mr Alastair Fugh, British Caledonian's managing director, said that despite plans by British Airways to increase capacity across the Atlantic, Britain could well lose out in the short term from Laker's withdrawal.

Laker and British Airways divided Britain's half share of traffic about equally and it was perhaps too much to expect British Airways to pick up all Laker's traffic. But British Caledonian had its hands too.

An angry attack on Sir Freddie Laker and Britain's attitudes towards him was made by Switzerland's national airline at its annual meeting in Bern.

Far from being a folk hero, Sir Freddie was a "cavalier capitalist" lacking a sense of responsibility, Swissair said.

Affiliation goes to Nalgo poll

By David Felton Labour Reporter

The Electoral Reform Society today starts the ballot process that will decide whether 800,000 strong National and Local Government Officers' Association, the country's fourth largest union, affiliates to the Labour Party.

Union members will probably not receive their ballot papers until early next week, when they are distributed at branch level. Each member of the "town hall" union has a secret postal vote.

Campaigning on the affiliation issue has been going on in the union since last year's annual conference, sanctioned the ballot, but supporters and opponents both agree about a lack of interest among traditionally moderate Nalgo members.

In spite of the apparent apathy, both groups agree that it is virtually certain the union members will decide against affiliation. Mr James White, Nalgo executive member and secretary of the Fight for Labour Affiliation Group (Flag), said last night: "Anyone who imagines that on the first ballot we are going to succeed would have to be a raging optimist".

Mr White, who is one of more than 20 executive members supporting affiliation, said the aim was to keep the issue alive among

the membership in the hope that a future ballot would produce an affirmative vote. Meetings of branches in traditional militant Scottish regions, called to discuss affiliation, have been well attended, while other meetings of large branches such as Kent county have attracted only a handful of members.

The ballot will cost the union about £70,000 and Mr Michael Blick, an opponent of affiliation, last night described it as "one of the highest and most expensive non-events in the history of the union".

Mr Blick, who is chairman of the union's national local government committee covering about 500,000 town hall staff, left the Labour Party last year to join the SDP, claiming he has been mainly campaigning against the principle of affiliation rather than against forging links with the Labour Party.

Supporters of affiliation claim there is a greater awareness that jobs are disappearing from local government because of central government policies they are not able to influence.

Voting is due to be completed on April 23 and the results will be announced on May 8.

SMOKERS OBJECT TO BR BAN

By a Staff Reporter

British Rail is banning smoking in almost all its restaurant and buffet cars after a successful six-month experiment in the Western Region. Passengers who break the rule will be liable to be fined £50 and stewards are being asked to report people who ignore the ban. Some reserved seats will be exempt.

The decision was criticized yesterday by the Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking (Tobacco FOREST), which accused Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, of acting in an intolerant and patronizing manner.

Mr Stephen Eyres, director of (Forest) said: "This is part of British Rail's step by step approach to eliminate all smoking on the railways. British Rail spokesman said yesterday: "We're following a trend. Sixty per cent of our customers are non-smokers

CHILDREN HAVE LESS TO SPEND

By a Staff Reporter

The recession is affecting children's pocket money, according to a survey conducted by Gallup for T. Wall and Sons, the ice cream company.

The average weekly pocket money for Britain's 10 million children has fallen by 15 per cent from £1.13 last year to less than 95p. Children in the north and Scotland have been most affected, seeing their average pocket money drop by 34 per cent from £1.18 to less than 79p.

Wall's has produced a pocket money monitor for the last eight years, and says that the 1982 survey is the first to show a fall. Children in the south, like their parents, seem to be more affluent than those in the rest of Britain. Their weekly allowance has fallen by only 4 per cent, from £1.14 to £1.09 overall, the survey says, boys receive less than their sisters or girl friends.

An earlier origin for stone tools

By Norman Hammond

Archaeology Correspondent

The world's earliest stone tools are now known to be between two and a half and three million years old, on the evidence of recent work in Ethiopia. They may well have been made by an early species of hominid called *Australopithecus africanus*, but they could have been the work of an early type of man, *Homo habilis*.

No man-made tools have been found at hominid sites dating to before three million years ago, but after 2.5 million years ago stone and bone tools are "permanent and numerous", according to Dr Yves Coppens, of the Musée de l'Homme in Paris.

In a review of "Who Made What", presented at the Prehistoric Society yesterday, he said that on present evidence *Australopithecus africanus* existed between 2.7 and one million years ago, and had modern legs but archaic upper limbs: they could walk upright, but not manipulate objects as well as later humans.

Homo habilis could now be placed even earlier, however, on the basis of recent work by Dr Coppens and his colleagues. The Hadar region of north-east Ethiopia, and the fragmentary remains from Kanapoi in Kenya.

With an apparent beginning four million years ago, *Homo habilis*, originally dubbed "handy man" because of the fully human grip that he possessed, is an even better candidate for the first toolmaker.

The coeval hominid defined by Dr Coppens, Dr Donald Johanson and Dr Tim White in 1978 as *Australopithecus afarensis*, of which the partial skeleton known as "Lucy" is the best known specimen, should be assigned to a "pre-*Australopithecus*" status because of its archaic limb structure, Dr Coppens now feels.

The early tools from the Shungura Formation, on the Omo River in southern Ethiopia, first found in 1969, could be placed firmly between Member B of the formation, dated to three million years ago, and to a level higher than Member E at 2.2 million years. These are the tools that Dr Coppens feels "may have been made by *Australopithecus africanus*" or by *Homo habilis*.

Other tools have also been pushed back in time by recent work: the more developed Oldowan industry has been dated to 2.6 million years at Hadar, a million years earlier than its initial placement.

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*Source: NRS (JICNARS) October 1980-September 1981

*Source: NRS (JICNARS) July-December 1981

NEWS IN SUMMARY

No damages in tampon case win

Denver, Colorado. — An 18-year-old girl who suffered toxic shock syndrome through tampons has won her case against the manufacturer but failed to receive the \$25m (£14m) she claimed as compensation and punitive damages.

A federal jury ruled that the Procter and Gamble company was negligent in its manufacture and sale of a defective product but it awarded no money or medical expenses to Miss Deletha Dawn Lampshire.

The jury said the company had not breached its warranty on its Rely brand tampons which were withdrawn from the market in September 1980, and could not be held for damages.

Malta and Libya improve links

Valletta. — Malta and Libya have ratified their 1976 agreement to take their offshore oil exploration dispute to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

The agreement was a result of the unexpected meeting between Colonel Gaddafi and Mr Don Mitroff ten days ago, which eased the strained relations between the two governments which have existed since 1980. Trade and diplomatic relations are now expected to return to normal.

New bones find in Antarctica

Washington. — Scientists have discovered the first bones of a land mammal in Antarctica, the National Science Foundation said, strengthening the evidence that South America and Antarctica were linked in prehistoric times.

The foundation, which finances and manages American scientific activities in Antarctica, said that the bones of a rat-like mammal were found in a graveyard of strange prehistoric skeletons, which included those of 6ft penguins, a 40ft plesiosaur, (a marine reptile), and a mosasaur, a lizard with paddle-like limbs.

Seven killed in south Lebanon

Sidon. — At least seven people have been killed and 10 injured in clashes between rival militias in the Southern Village of Ayn Qana, travellers said. Security sources said the hostilities were between the Amad Shiite muslim paramilitary organization and supporters of the pro-Iraq Baath Party.

Schmidt's party Loses heavily in Saxony poll

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 21

Herr Helmut Schmidt's strike-ridden Social Democrats (SPD) suffered severe losses in today's lower Saxony Land elections, seen here as an important test of West Germany's political mood.

The first results showed that the Christian Democrats, who hope to take over from the chancellor's frayed 12-year-old coalition as soon as possible, were heading for an absolute majority.

The Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) who fell below the 5 per cent minimum needed for representation last time, seemed assured of seats in the new parliament while the ecological Green Party also looks likely to be represented.

The first computer forecasts, based on about one third of the voting districts, forecast a loss of around 6 per cent for the Chancellor's party from 42 per cent to somewhere around 36.3 per cent. The Christian Democrats, who last time polled 48.7 per cent, won around 51 per cent, so that they will be able to rule without a coalition partner. The Free Democrats were said to have gained more than 2 per cent to achieve 6.7 per cent and the Greens were also up by nearly 2 per cent to 5.7 per cent.

The result could well encourage the Free Democrats to think even harder about leaving the Social Democrats and moving over to form a coalition with the Christian Democrats in Bonn. Political observers have predicted that they could even take the step this year rather than wait for the next Bundestag elections in 1984.

The Lower Saxony poll is the first of four Land elections this year whose results could affect the future of Herr Schmidt's Government.

Apart from the severe psychological blow to the Social Democrats, it could also mean serious trouble for the SPD-FDP coalition in Bonn. The Lower Saxony Christian Democrats could use their vote in the Bundestag, the upper house in Bonn, to block an early increase in value added tax needed to finance the Government's job creation scheme.

The VAT increase was agreed on with great difficulty by the coalition parties and it will be extremely hard for them to find another solution acceptable to both.

The results also amount to a huge personal victory for Herr Erast Albrecht, the popular and successful Lower Saxony Prime Minister, and will strengthen his position as a rival to Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democratic Party chairman, as a future Chancellor.

The results appear to confirm the trend that the SPD are losing the votes of younger people to the Greens and other alternative groups.



Mount St Helens erupts twice in six hours

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, March 21

After two eruptions of Mount St Helens within six hours, scientists today planned to take a helicopter into the smoldering crater in Vancouver, Washington, to try to estimate how much longer the volcano will continue to throw out ashes.

After the volcano exploded with its second blast of gas and ash yesterday morning, the scientists made an inspection of the crater but dense steam, rising to about 2,500ft, made it impossible to confirm reports of new growth on the crater's lava dome.

Mr Bill Chadwick, of the United States geological survey team said after a visit to the site: "I think, overall this is somewhat in between the explosive eruptions in 1980 and the non-explosive eruptions in 1981."

He said scientists were "in the dark" until they got a look at the dome and saw what happened. It could take until Tuesday before they could answer with confidence, he added.

Mount St Helens erupted in May, 1980, claiming 61 lives. After the last two eruptions, officials fearing that heat from the volcano might cause a rapid melting of snow and serious flooding, ordered the evacuation of more than 70 families living along the Toutle river, north of the volcano.



Central America flashpoint Duarte pledge on murdered news team

San Salvador, March 21. — President José Napoleón Duarte has promised to investigate personally the killing of four Dutch journalists on March 17.

He said that he believed an Army report that they died in a clash between left-wing guerrillas and security forces, but he would go to the scene of the killing to conduct his own inquiries. He invited journalists to accompany him.

President Duarte said it was difficult to guarantee the safety of anyone in a country at war — especially journalists who constantly crossed sides. He said that reporters were as much in danger with guerrillas as with the security forces because no one was safe when the two sides shot at each other.

Three Brazilian journalists who said they were shot at by soldiers on Friday left the country yesterday, saying they were frightened to stay.

The President also said that intelligence reports indicated that the guerrillas planned to intensify their activities from Wednesday in an attempt to disrupt the elections next Sunday.

Guerrillas yesterday attacked the town of Triunfo in Usulután, 75 miles east of San Salvador. They killed two civil defence guards and set fire to the town hall, several houses and buses before fleeing, according to military sources.

Guerrillas also cut the important coastal road 50 miles from San Salvador, delaying traffic for several hours. The coastal road and the Pan-American Highway are the only roads running the length of El Salvador.

—Reuter.

Washington: the State Department, continuing its campaign to prove that left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador are under outside control, this weekend produced an 11-page report showing the extent of Cuba's and Nicaragua's role in the Salvadoran insurgency (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The paper did not, however, include any of the sensitive intelligence material that has been made available to certain congressional committees. A result, the report contained little new information, and was instead intended to describe the general pattern of outside support for El Salvador's guerrillas, including arms supply, training, command and control.

Presenting the document during an annual Saturday press briefing, Mr Dean Rusk, the State Department's spokesman, defended the decision not to make intelligence information available to the public. "Where it is to be released," he said, "the United States Government would lose access to critical information, and might well risk the lives of some brave people who believe it is important that the Government know what is going on."

Two Dutch journalists who returned to the Netherlands on Sunday from El Salvador emphatically denied that their four colleagues were killed in an exchange of fire between government troops and guerrillas (Robert Scull writes).

Mr Hans van Gerven, a radio reporter, and Mr Rene de Bok of Elsevier Magazine farmers living in the area where the four men were killed said that they had not heard the 40-minute exchange of gunfire, said to have taken place by the government.

Mr van Gerven, who identified the bodies of the four men when they were brought to San Salvador on Thursday, said that they seemed to have been starved to death. As far as he was concerned, his four colleagues were "simply murdered."

Mr William Vergeer, the Dutch deputy leader of the Christian Democrat group in the European Parliament, said on Sunday that he would not be going to El Salvador as an observer for the elections on March 28.

Mr Vergeer, who would have been the only Dutch observer, said that, after the killing of the four journalists, he had grave doubts about whether he would be able to operate freely as an observer.

Despite these constraints, the report reveals that the United States had received information that President Fidel Castro of Cuba ordered an increase three months ago in arms shipments to the Salvadoran insurgents, in an effort to disrupt next week's elections there. Extreme left-wing groups throughout Central America were mobilized to support the effort.



Tricky question: President Duarte of El Salvador facing a press conference on Saturday. He promised protection for journalists, but refused to guarantee their safety if they travel with the guerrillas.

The arms flow to the rebels had been by both land and sea routes, the paper said, in addition to vitaly needed ammunition, recent guerrilla supply operations had included greater quantities of more sophisticated, heavier weapons. These included M60 machine guns, 57-mm recoilless rifles and M72 anti-tank weapons. Three Nicaraguan ships — the Monimbo, Aracely and Nicara — were identified as transporters of weapons.

The document revealed for the first time that the Administration believed that the Papalóna airfield, northwest of Managua, had been used for airlifting and storing arms. The airfield has been extended from a small agricultural strip to a runway 3,600 ft long, with three parking aprons and six storage hangars.

The paper also describes what is identified as the Salvadoran guerrilla command and control centre, near Managua. It said the headquarters were extremely sophisticated, and coordinated logistical support for the guerrillas throughout El Salvador.

Managua: Government forces arrested and expelled at least 19 Jehovah's Witnesses on Saturday. Relatives told by American consular officials that they had been flown to either Panama or Costa Rica (AP reports).

The American Embassy in Managua said it was investigating, and had asked the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry for an explanation.

Guatemala City: Twenty-nine bodies, almost all with bullet wounds and signs of torture, were found in various parts of Guatemala in the last 24 hours (Reuters reports).

Police said that villagers discovered the bullet-riddled bodies of 11 Indians in a common grave in a deep ravine near the western Guatemalan town of Chimaltenango.

Another 12 corpses, some with slit throats and showing signs of torture as well as gunshot wounds, were found by local authorities in San Antonio in the south-eastern province of Suchitepequez. Police said that the dead were identified as peasants from the Pacific coast.

Rome: The Pope today recalled the murder of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in El Salvador two years ago and prayed for a peaceful solution to that country's problems (AP reports).

"March 24 will be the second anniversary of the death of Romero a defenceless victim The Pope said."

Shuttle off today on big venture for science

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The third flight of Columbia, the reusable American spacecraft, is due to start from Cape Canaveral, Florida, today. Although strictly speaking, it is another test flight for the new vehicle, the crew of Colonel Jack Lousma, the mission commander, and his pilot, Colonel Charles Walker, have on board a 2,350-cargo of scientific equipment.

It consists of none instrument packages designed to yield important information for astronomers, biologists, medical scientists and plasma physicists and for engineers, paving the way for future scientific journeys in orbit.

The plan is for a seven-day flight, the longest so far, with a landing at White Sands, New Mexico. The original landing site in California cannot be used because of flooding in the heavy rains.

Another innovation is the first use of the mechanical arm, built in Canada, for lifting a package of experimental apparatus out of the orbiter and into space. The long-term usefulness of the shuttle depends to a large extent on the success of this manipulator arm. So, on 44 hours of work is beginning with the arm unloaded to give the crew experience in controlling its robot-like movements.

The practical application, lasting about 14 hours, will involve a group of instruments called the plasma diagnostic package. What that apparatus will do is measure how the orbiter spacecraft interacts with its surroundings in space.

Launch on TV

Independent Television News plans to show a recording of the shuttle launch at 4.14 pm today, 74 minutes after the planned take-off time. In the event of an emergency, however, the ITN pictures may be shown earlier. The BBC also plans to interrupt its normal programmes for the launch.

space. Measurements will be made of electric and magnetic fields within 45ft of the vehicle, the characteristics of electromagnetic waves will be recorded over a broad range of frequencies, and so will the characteristics of an electron beam produced by a special electron gun called a fast pulse generator.

The timetable for operating the robot arm allows 23 hours for thermal testing. On this mission the spacecraft will be exposed to extremes of temperature which have been avoided on previous journeys.

The spacecraft will be subjected to temperatures ranging from 93 degrees centigrade to minus 66 degrees. Under these conditions the hull of Columbia is expected to heat, like a car, about a degree along its entire length. This is because the vehicle will be extremely hot on one side facing the sun, and bitterly cold on the side in shadow.

In addition to the large scientific payload planned by the Office of Space Science, and hence called OSSA, Columbia will carry a cylindrical canister, created by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for a new scheme dubbed the "getaway special programme". It is intended to attract more customers to acquire space for their cargo on future flights.

The canister will allow anyone to fly an experiment on the shuttle orbiter, provided the experiment is of a scientific research and development nature.

Extremists climb aboard the Treurnicht wagon

From Michael Hornsby, Pretoria, March 21

The extreme right wing secured a strategic beachhead in South African politics with the launching here at the weekend of the Conservative Party of South Africa under the leadership of Dr Treurnicht, who was expelled from the ruling National Party (NP) along with 15 other rebel MPs earlier this month.

Speaking to some 7,000 fervent supporters packed into a hall in the agricultural showground here, Dr Treurnicht denounced the government's plans for limited power-sharing (those of mixed race) and Indians, and called for a return to the racial rigidities of the Verwoerd era.

His audience, mainly middle and lower-middle class whites frequently burst into thunderous applause, rising to their feet and waving South African flags. It was one of the biggest political rallies seen in South Africa for many years.

Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister can draw some consolation from Dr Treurnicht's failure so far to win the support of Mr Jaap Marais's Herstigte Nasionale party (HNP), which broke away from the NP in 1969 (in part over the issue of racially mixed sport).

Scattered among the audience were also members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, an openly fascist, paramilitary organisation, consciously modelled on the Nazi party, which advocates seizure of power by military force failing success by the ballot box.

The most important right-wing figure to pledge support for Dr Treurnicht at yesterday's rally was Dr Connie Mulder, the disgraced former Information Minister and one-time contender for the premiership. He came to the platform to announce to cheers that his small National Conservative Party, which like the HNP has no parliamentary seats, would be merging with Dr Treurnicht's new party.

Two other small far-right groups also allied themselves with Dr Treurnicht: the Aksies Eie Toekoms (Action Own Future), led by Professor Alkmaar Swart, which advocates the creation of a white "homeland" from the economically most viable parts of South Africa from which all blacks would be banished, and the little-known South Africa First Campaign, an English-speaking group led by Mr Brendan Wilmer.

EEC silver jubilee Why the champagne is flat

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 21

On March 25, 1957 the European Economic Communities were created with the signing of the Treaty of Rome. This is the first of three articles from Ian Murray in Brussels to mark their first quarter century.

The European Communities celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary this week with about as much enthusiasm as a befeater in a vegetarian restaurant. A minor poster campaign, a few seminars and a jubilee dinner for a couple of hundred celebrities are all there are to mark a quarter of a century of joint European endeavour.

It is embarrassing that the anniversary comes at a time when Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, has just felt himself obliged to warn Europe that it is in danger and when politicians in most member states have been facing p to what they call the worst crisis the EEC has ever known.

Embarrassing though it may be, it is nevertheless appropriate and typical that Europe should be in crisis as it marks up its silver jubilee. To judge by its newspaper image the EEC stumbles from one crisis to the next.

It is, however, true that crisis has, so far, often been creative. Many of the main political initiatives have been taken with the crisis-grip pointed at members' heads. As Lord Carrington sadly pointed out last year when he was President of the Council: Europe only ever takes decisions at the last possible moment."

That has been throbproblem which has dogged the Community from its inception: it is not something which arrived ten years ago with Britain. As the 1958 general report complained: "it is unacceptable that important problems should remain unsolved for years on end. There is nothing to be gained by retarding or blocking decisions which will eventually have to be adopted anyway."

All this loss of time has been to no purpose and has profited nobody, and it would have been better to realise that at the start rather than at the end. Can it be hoped that the lesson of these experiences will not be completely wasted in the years ahead?

If Europe is in crisis today, it is precisely because member states have not learnt the lesson of those experiences and continue to refuse to face the facts. It is because the only way Europe can usually solve a major problem is to have a crisis first to concentrate minds. That crisis is always one of

EEC silver jubilee

identity, with one or more of the members unwilling to subordinate tangible national interest to the ethereal Community spirit.

Britain is at the centre of the current crisis — and in a way has been at the centre of many of the most difficult crises which Europe has created for itself. The history of the first 25 years of the EEC can be viewed as the battle for the body and soul of Britain. The body was won ten years ago when Britain joined. The battle for the soul is continuing, with British reluctance to pay up and shut up the biggest irritant.

The economic arguments for Britain staying in are well known. Statistics show that United Kingdom trade with EEC partners now accounts for 43 per cent of total exports and provides work for 2 million people. Negotiating replacement trade agreements would be difficult if not impossible.

There are rival statistics and arguments, but they are essentially irrelevant. Even orthodox Labour Party stalwarts admit privately that it would take a three-figure majority at the next election to make Britain out, and there is no other party in Parliament with any intention of leaving.

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Polish journalist braves arrest to attack ban

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 21

Mr Stefan Bratkowski, one of Poland's leading journalists and a prominent Marxist reformer, emerged from hiding this weekend and promptly attacked the decision of the martial law authorities to dissolve the Polish journalists' association.

Mr Bratkowski's appearance after over three months of moving from flat to flat to avoid detention (though it is still not clear whether there is a warrant for his arrest) comes at a time of intense controversy over the role of journalists in Poland.

As president of the association during the Solidarity era in 1980-1981, Mr Bratkowski helped to shape it into one of the most radical reformist organizations, constantly urging the authorities to ease censorship and democratize society.

However, the martial law authorities announced on Saturday that they had dissolved the association because some of its leaders "openly sided with undertakings of extremist anti-socialist groupings, going so far as to publish tendentious accusations levelled against state authority".

This is partly a reference to articles that Mr Bratkowski has managed to smuggle out to the West since martial law was imposed. The dissolution came after an obviously orchestrated two-week campaign, during which Communist Party journalists on *Trybuna Ludu*, the party daily, and from television sought the scrapping of the association.

Mr Bratkowski, in a statement made available to *The Times* and another Western reporter, described the dissolution of the union as "the crowning blow in the series of unjustified and illegal repressive actions directed at our profession over the past few months".

Journalists were being subjected to a humiliating process of political vetting, Mr Bratkowski said. The association had, he said, fought against "the brutal exploitation of the mass media as a crude instrument of propaganda".

"Today, those in power have again made propaganda into a crisis-generating element in our society. They are trying to do it through us, journalists and thus destroy the credibility that we managed to build up for the mass media over the past year".

The statement was signed by other leading journalists, including Mr Machiej Szumowski, ousted editor of the *Praca* party daily.

The decision to dissolve the association has bitterly divided the Polish journalistic community which, along with judges and university teachers, has been one of the most vulnerable under martial law. But Mr Bratkowski has been able to do little more than appeal to his colleagues not to cooperate with any new, neutered journalists' union.

Not to join the new union may well mean journalists being denied jobs and livelihoods, something likely to undermine resistance.

Both sides of the journalistic community — those who support martial law and those who want to continue criticizing it — are due to meet on Tuesday, Mr Bratkowski, though he still evidently fears the possibility of being detained, is expected to attend and argue the case for a press that is relatively independent of Communist Party control.

Mr Bratkowski originally supported the policies of Mr Stanislaw Kania, the former party chief and General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the current leader. However, after a clash between militia and Solidarity in Bydgoszcz a year ago, he and other journalists grew more critical. Eventually some weeks before martial law was declared, he was thrown out of the Communist Party and the authorities tried briefly to create an alternative journalist union. Both bodies were suspended after December 13.

Sitar and science for Gandhi

By David Cross

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, arrived in London last night for a five-day visit which she hopes will help to foster a better relationship with her country's former colonial masters.

Certainly the occasion for her visit, the opening of a seven-month celebration of India's cultural heritage, should help to focus attention on the positive rather than the negative aspects of the long ties between the two countries. Mrs Gandhi hopes that the many exhibitions showing the arts, sciences and other disciplines will help to make India better understood by the British.

The visit begins with several hours of talks between Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher. The Festival of India is to be launched with a concert at the Festival Hall to be attended by both Prime Ministers.

The programme will include the European premiere of Ravi Shankar's second concerto for the sitar played by the composer. The concert will be followed by a British Government reception.

Tomorrow after talks with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Gandhi will visit a number of exhibitions, including a permanent biographical exhibition of Nehru and a show mainly of sculptures and paintings from the third century BC to the nineteenth century at the Hayward Gallery.

On Wednesday, after a press conference, Mrs Gandhi will lunch with the Queen and open a Science in India exhibition at the Science Museum in Kensington. Thursday and most of Friday will be spent in private.

Delhi: A powerful Soviet military delegation has completed a week's visit here, leaving the impression that Moscow is keen to continue as the leading arms supplier to a less-than-eager India.

The picture emerged from official statements, local news reports and comments of Indian officials and foreign diplomats as Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, three deputy ministers and 30 Generals left for Moscow.

An Indian Government statement said that Marshal Ustinov had assured India about the Soviet desire to continue and strengthen cooperation "in the field of supply of defence equipment by the Soviet Union and in the development of defence production industry in India".

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Leading article, page 11
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Afghanistan two years later



French at the front: Dr Jean-Louis Hermann, a French doctor working for Aide Medicale Internationale, examining a guerrilla fighter in the Loghar region of Afghanistan.

Soviet 'atrocities' condemned by doctors

From Edward Girardet, Paris

For the past year and a half, three French medical organizations have been discreetly operating clandestine relief missions in the mountains and valleys of resistance-held Afghanistan. In recent weeks, they have become increasingly outspoken against what they consider to be atrocities against the civilian population by the Soviet occupation forces.

At present, the Paris-based *Médecins sans Frontières* (MSF), *Aide Médicale Internationale* (AMI) and *Médecins du Monde* (MDM), whose medical teams are active in war zones elsewhere in the world including Cambodia, Kurdistan and El Salvador, are the only Western humanitarian groups to work inside Afghanistan on a permanent basis.

About 25 volunteer men and women, mainly French but with a sprinkling of Belgians and Swiss, are now running clinics, dispensaries and itinerant aid programmes in eight different provinces at any one time for periods of up to six months.

Originally, the French organizations had hoped that by keeping their activities low key and concentrating primarily on providing basic health care in the insurgent-controlled areas — the Russians would leave them alone. But the presence of foreign doctors among the Afghans is known to irritate the regime. Not only do they serve as morale boosters for the resistance but also as constant witnesses to conditions inside the country.

Three French-run hospitals in the Panjshir valley north of Kabul, the Hazarajat and Paktia provinces were suddenly attacked by Soviet MIGs and helicopters over a two-day period last November. Medical staff and patients narrowly escaped.

Regarding this as a deliberate intimidation tactic, the doctors of MSF and AMI decided to publicly upbraid the Russians by explaining their position to the media. They said that they were also deeply concerned by an upsurge in recent months of communist attacks against towns and villages intended to demoralize the local population and deny support to the guerrillas.

The French doctors have not come across any direct evidence of chemical warfare by the Russians but have heard numerous reports from Afghans that point to its use. Some victims, they said, bore traces such as blackened skin, blisters and other symptoms that seemed to suggest chemical attacks.

In one case, the doctors examined a male victim with body burns which they said could have come from napalm or a similar chemical.

"The Russians have been conducting a reign of terror," said Dr Claude Malhuret, executive director of MSF. "We feel it is now up to world public opinion to pressure the Russians into stopping such atrocities."

Western military analysts have also recently drawn attention to what they feel to be a more brutal attempt by the Russians to crush resistance.

Returning French teams in some cases have been able to provide first-hand evidence of communist bombardments and military incursions.

One AMI team, which returned earlier this month after spending the winter in the Panjshir valley, north of Kabul, said that they had seen 13 aerial attacks since December. French doctors were also present when an estimated 15,000 Soviet and Afghan troops launched an offensive against the valley in early autumn.

More recently, the team said, they had retreated severely injured Afghans during an 11-day sweep in early February by mainly Soviet troops in Kohistan at the mouth of the Panjshir valley. According to Marie-Paul Solleir, an AMI nurse, local resistance leaders and refugees had told them that more than 1,000 civilians and guerrillas had been killed including at least 400 Afghans executed by the Russians. She said that according to the report they had recovered "most of them were machine-gunned by they also took 18 white-bearded old men from a village called Bulareh, doused them with petrol and burned them".

With most Afghan doctors having fled the country or living in the communist-occupied towns, perhaps as many as eight million Afghans in the resistance-held regions are forced to rely on this small, scattered handful of foreign doctors for medical care.

Relying primarily on public donations for support, the organizations are trying to send more missions to Afghanistan. At the moment there are no British doctors working inside Afghanistan but the French have been keen to combine efforts with other countries.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Tremors in Japan and Italy

An earthquake in Japan has injured at least 80 people and in southern Italy thousands panicked after strong tremors struck the region.

Six of the Japanese casualties were seriously hurt when a severe earthquake shook Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.

The tremor, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, disrupted rail services for three hours.

In southern Italy the strong tremors sent thousands of people fleeing panic-stricken into the streets throughout the region. The area was devastated by earthquakes in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

Moscow — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Soviet Politburo, was named among Kremlin officials who signed an obituary for a wartime hero, thereby ending speculation that he may have been dropped from the party leadership.

Mr Kirilenko has appeared in public only once in the past six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Some Soviet sources say that the 75-year-old politician, who was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, has been unwell for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

Wander Lake, Illinois — search crews, crossing snowy fields on foot and horseback have recovered the bodies of all 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night.

Those killed were the four crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital

Salisbury — Mrs Sally Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than two months in a London Hospital being treated for a kidney condition.

Mrs Mugabe was met at the Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the return journey.

Disease slows Danish exports

Copenhagen — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot and mouth disease reported on the Danish island of Funen (Christopher Follett writes).

About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports — largely pork — are affected.

There were no difficulties over meat exports to EEC countries, in particular Britain, Denmark's biggest customer.

Khomeini takes a 10-day rest

Tehran — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a 10-day rest from all official duties, Iran state radio reported.

The ayatollah, who is 82 and has a heart condition, tried to take a break last month. He returned to public life after 10 days when there was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

Bandaranaike party rift healed

Colombo — With the prospect of general elections or a presidential election this year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, resolved their differences and Mr Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth the Sri Lanka Freedom Party will be one indivisible unit under my leadership".

Liberia's security chief dismissed

Monrovia — Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service and a senior government accountant for the alleged embezzlement of public funds.

The Liberian leader, who is the army commander, will supervise security forces.

Western pressure failed to shift Russia

By Our Foreign Staff

The West must never allow the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan to be forgotten, Lord Carrington said yesterday.

After the Soviet invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the world had gradually come to accept the situation in these countries as normal, he told a radio interviewer. But with Afghanistan, the world must continually bear in mind that the situation was unacceptable and do what it could to turn it round.

During the interview on the BBC radio programme *The World This Weekend*, Lord Carrington conceded that Western diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not had the desired effect of forcing a withdrawal of its armed forces. Some 90,000 Soviet troops remained in the country.

But he was confident that the sharp reaction in the United Nations, where 116 countries had condemned the Soviet intervention, had acted as a brake on the Soviet Union in Poland. The Western proposal to ask for a Soviet withdrawal and designate Afghanistan as neutral territory remained on the table, he said.

He said he hoped that a combination of continuing diplomatic pressures on the Soviet Union and the unflagging guerrilla war in Afghanistan would eventually force Moscow to change its mind.

He pointed out that the Afghan insurgents were continuing to receive arms supplies although he declined to say which countries were providing them.

In Brussels, the need for political support for the people of Afghanistan was emphasized by Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, in a statement to mark the first "Afghanistan Day." He said that all countries who subscribe to the principles of freedom and self-determination for the Afghan people should use their influence to end the Soviet interference in the country.

Afghanistan Day, an idea suggested by the European Parliament, won support from President Reagan earlier this month.

In Delhi, about 500 Afghan refugees held a two-hour demonstration outside the Soviet Embassy. Some refugees later joined an anti-Soviet rally organized by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. A declaration by the organization to mark Afghanistan Day regretted that the international community was a "silent spectator" of events in Afghanistan.

In neighbouring Pakistan, where 2.6 million Afghan refugees have fled, special radio and television programmes were broadcast and Afghan insurgent groups held rallies denouncing the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In Moscow, the Soviet press called the West's observance of Afghanistan Day an "infamous spectacle" and accused the United States and Pakistan of doing all they could to prevent a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Soviet reports from Kabul spoke of 100,000 demonstrators taking part in a protest meeting outside the American Embassy and quoted Afghan politicians and clergy condemning Afghanistan Day as outright support for counter-revolution.

According to Tass, President Babrak Karmal told a party conference that Washington expressed "continual concern for the Afghan people but this showed itself in the violation of international law, encouragement of terrorism, interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the attempt to aggravate tension in the region".

But he asserted that in spite of rebel attacks, important social and economic changes had been carried out since the 1978 revolution which brought the Marxists to power.

Khmers slip away as Vietnamese advance

From David Watts Singapore, March 21

The Vietnamese Army has occupied two of the principle nationalist resistance villages in Cambodia, as its dry season offensive approaches a climax.

Fighters of Mr Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) have melted away into the jungle in the face of the advancing Vietnamese, who had previously concentrated on the Khmer Rouge in their biggest operation since they entered the country in 1979.

The KPNLF claim that casualties from the villages of Sokh Sann One and Two have been minimal since Vietnamese forces moved into the main concentrations of Mr Sann's followers, centred on four villages, in the early hours of Thursday.

Confirmation of the attack and occupation came only at the weekend. The area is closed to foreign journalists, and a spokesman for the KPNLF hinted that even Cambodians have been prevented from going to the area by the Thai military.

The Vietnamese operation has forced about 8,000 Cambodian civilians to flee the two villages. Some 500 are thought to have escaped into Thailand. The KPNLF reported one dead and more than a dozen wounded.

Since the middle of January, the Vietnamese have been staging a large-scale pincer movement, using their 75 and 9 divisions to squeeze Khmer Rouge positions in the region of Phnom Penh. Until the latter half of last week there had been no attacks on KPNLF forces, which are a much less effective military force than the Khmer Rouge.

In contrast to the fighting against the KPNLF, it appears that the fighting against the Khmer Rouge has been costly to both sides. The Vietnamese, struggling against the Khmer Rouge's well-fortified mountain strongholds, have suffered as many as 1,500 dead and wounded, and lost seven tanks, while one Western analyst estimates that the Khmer Rouge have lost 600 dead and wounded.

The KPNLF said they had lost little in the way of equipment in the Vietnamese attack, since they had managed to get most of the weapons and ammunitions out.

Infiltrators blamed for riots in Jakarta

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, March 21

Admiral Sudomo, the Indonesian head of security, today blamed the pro-Golkar Party for lack of security at a rally on Thursday which erupted into violence and arson leaving at least 60 people injured and scores of cars burning. But he said the general election campaign would continue.

Admiral Sudomo, giving his first briefing to the foreign press since the riots, said that the authorities had discovered that a group of about 100 Muslim Party supporters had infiltrated the rally in Benteng Square, Central Jakarta, carrying stones and wearing Golkar tee-shirts. However, after interrogation of the 240 arrested, some of them school children, the people who started the riot had not yet been identified.

"Golkar took no security measures at all," Admiral Sudomo said. "The PPP (Muslim Development Party) rally on Monday was peaceful. Thursday's riots were a small wave in a big ocean and what happened in Jakarta was not a reflection of the situation throughout Indonesia."

The situation in the provinces outside Jakarta was generally quiet with a "predictable" number of Golkar Party posters being torn down and mutilated. The campaign would continue and mass rallies would not be banned, he said. "If we did ban them, the opposition would accuse us of using the incident of being non-democratic."

However, future rallies in Jakarta would be held in a sports stadium and not in public squares — and it was possible that the Government would consider the advisability of mass rallies during future general election campaigns.

He continued to deny reports of deaths during the rioting, claiming that such reports were "rumours spread for political purposes".

Admiral Sudomo said the infiltrators were from Jakarta, not outside the city, that they were Muslim Party supporters but not members of the Muslim Party which last year carried Jakarta in the elections. The intent he said was to "destabilize the Government".

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Tremors hit Japan and Italy

1. earthquake in Japan injured at least 80 people in southern Italy. Strong tremors struck the region. A severe earthquake hit Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. The tremor, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, caused landslip which disrupted services for three hours. Southern Italy the is of people fleeing panic-stricken into the streets throughout the region. The was devastated by earthquakes in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

Moscow. — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Politburo, was named an obituary for a time hero, thereby speculation in the West may have been dropped. Mr Kirilenko has appeared only once in the past six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Soviet sources say he is a 75-year-old politician who was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, but fell out of favour for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

Wonder Lake, Illinois. — Search crews, crossing snowdrifts on foot and horseback, have recovered the bodies of 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night. Those killed were the crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital

Salisbury. — Mrs Robert Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than two months in a London hospital being treated for a kidney condition.

Mrs Mugabe was met at the Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. In Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the journey.

Disease slows Danish exports

Copenhagen. — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot-and-mouth disease reported from the Danish island of Funen. About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports are affected. There were no difficulties over meat exports to other countries in particular Britain, Denmark's largest customer.

Khomeini take a 10-day rest

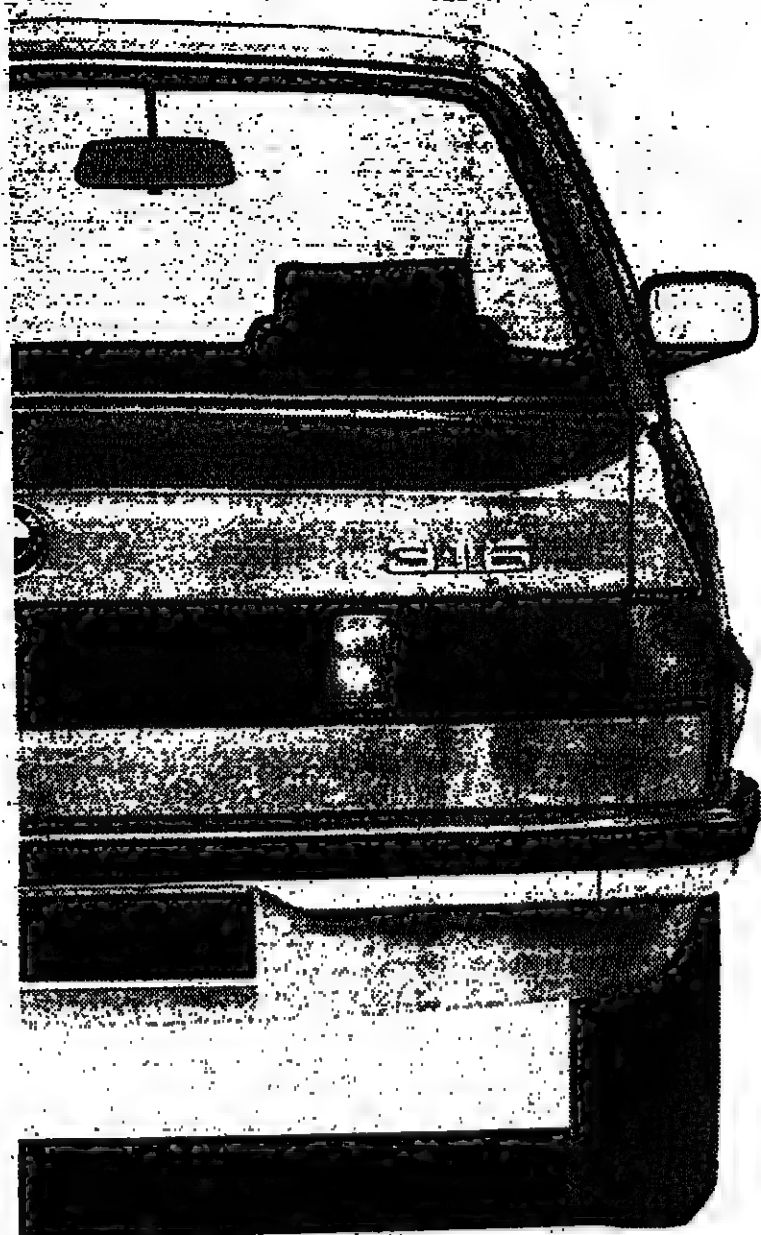
Tehran. — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a 10-day rest from all official duties. The announcement came after a heart condition and he has a heart condition and he has a heart condition. He returned to his life after 10 days when there was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

Bandaranaike party rift healed

Colombo. — With the prospect of general elections next year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Kumara Bandaranaike, resolved their differences and Mrs Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth we be one and indivisible under my leadership."

Liberia's security chief dismissed

Monrovia. — Samuel Doe, Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service, a senior government official, for alleged involvement in the murder of a senior government official. The dismissed official was a senior government official, who is alleged to have supervised security services.



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Empress Indira, secure but suspicious

Last night Mrs Gandhi arrived in London to open the Festival of India. Trevor Fishlock profiles the woman who rules a fifth of the world's population.

Mrs Gandhi likes Britain. There are scars but no residue of bitterness from the independence struggle which turned her life and helped stoke tensions in the extraordinary family that shaped her.

When she first went to Britain as a young woman she was already committed to the struggle, and to the sari, the largely westernized family having burnt their western clothes on a nationalist pyre years before. She herself had cremated a doll, beloved but British.

She studied at Oxford and was courted in London by her future husband, Feroze Gandhi, before returning to India in 1941. The following year, to her relief, she was arrested at gunpoint by a British police sergeant and jailed, thereby earning freedom fighter colours. Her flower-like fragility led the prison doctor to prescribe her Ovaltine, but the spiteful prison superintendent ensured she did not get it.

The frail shy girl of the 1940s is now a resilient flyweight of 64, 5ft 3in and 75 lb. Prime Minister, mother figure and empress to 700 millions, a fifth of the world.

Like Mrs Thatcher, Mrs Gandhi has immense stamina. She works to the small hours and rises with the dawn chorus at No. 1 Safdarjung Road in Delhi. She is a sparring but not a quarrelling, with a liking for Italian cooking, a teetotaler with no objection to others drinking, her trimness aided by daily yoga and her calm by flower arranging.

By nature she is restrained, introspective in the way of many Kashmiri Brahmins. Her large eyes have a melancholic quality. She is never wroth, never suffused with adrenalin, and rarely shows ire.

Her persona is the snub, a regal chilling silence. Her silences, as could be testified by ex-President Nixon, whom she disliked, can be disconcerting. More than one political or press interviewer has foundered under her monosyllabic answers. She is careful with words, as if words, like people, may betray her.

Her personality is marked by suspicion and insecurity, which stem from her experience in politics and a expectation that people will disappoint or try to use her. More deeply, they are the product of an anxious childhood with an adored mother, who died young, and an emotionally buttoned and often absent father.

Her marriage did not bloom. She became her father's hostess and was apart from her husband, a journalist and MP, who died in 1960.

Her experience has made her a loner. She is reticent, watchful, mistrustful, resentful of criticism, passionately determined to be independent and always in command, finding difficulty in making friends.

She has seen to it that her collaborators do not grow powerful. She does not quarry the seam of Indian ability she rightly boasts of. The Congress, no longer a movement, barely a party, offers no avenues for challengers. In foreign policy, too, she holds the cards. She could say with some truth, in a language she speaks well, "L'Inde, c'est moi".

She travels widely with her father and her privy to his talks and other leaders. But she does not possess his dreamy idealism, being more hard headed. "She has few peers," Henry Kissinger wrote, "in the coldblooded calculation of the elements of power".

India has for years been a staunch non-crie of the Russians, but Mrs Gandhi wants to disabuse the world of the notion that Russia's arm is round her shoulder. The relationship is strong, and Russia is India's biggest arms supplier.

But Mrs Gandhi was made anxious by the occupation of Afghanistan, a catalyst of regional tensions, and she seems to want to establish a certain distance.

In search of balance she wants better relations with European countries. She needs the West more because she needs the money. The complex relationship with Britain is good and she feels an affinity with France's prickly independence.

She would like a better relationship with the United States. Relations at present are still soured by early mistakes and perceptions, the ego-clash of two huge countries, and in belief that the US wanted India as a neatly labelled Indian, Indian self-righteousness and American ignorance.

At home her independence is complete. No one challenges her. No one says she must go. The only opposition, as she says, is the press; and that is small, although ministers tut about its "failure to give the correct picture". Political opposition is disarrayed.

Her relationship with the media is a sure, and she works at it. Like her father she is good with crowds and derives sustenance from encounters with them.

Caricaturists show her scowling, but many Indians, and visitors who meet her, are enchanted by her presence and radiant smile. She travels widely, keeping in touch, and must be the most photographed woman in the world. Every morning she sets aside time to meet hundreds of ordinary people at her home.

She presided over the years in which India moved from the euphoric freedom era into a more complex age. There are many Indians who feel disappointed that so much hope and promise seems to have been dashed by poverty, violence and corruption.

The middle classes grow restless with rising costs; civil servants are corrupt because they do not earn enough; there is a chronic power shortage; people eat more than they did in independence. There is no shortage of criticism in India, and disappointment is reposed at the feet of Mrs Gandhi, along with the tributes of the sycophants.

Advances in agriculture, irrigation, and industry only go so far, her critics say. Now that she is secure, where is the broader vision, social reform, the pursuit of justice, war on corruption, the strengthening of institutions, population control?

Mrs Gandhi is a tactician and reactive. She does not have a political philosophy, as she has said. She has spent much time on securing her leadership, and less on evaluating problems, ordering priorities and the uses of power. Her lack of framework may account, in part, for her indecision.

Her son Rajiv, her ombudsman and confidant, is now an integral part of her court. Some Indians resent the idea of succession through the house of Nehru. Others are phlegmatic. After all, the people threw his mother out of power.

They are unlikely to do it again. In a country where symbols are important she provides a sense of nationalism, of India united, of the past, of present strength and continuity. For many millions it is enough.

Dear Sir Keith

On February 5 in these columns I wrote you an open letter about the Government's policies towards the universities. On February 10 you graciously published a reasoned reply. In the light of that, I believe it is in the public interest that the debate continue. My fundamental premise is that the enforced decline in student numbers — in contrast to the cuts in cash — is profoundly against the public interest.

We need a new policy to distribute cash among individual universities more or less according to the existing University Grants Commission pattern while allowing student numbers at each institution to find a natural level without artificial increases in entrance standards. One way of doing this is by salary restraint, and I very much hope my colleagues will take advantage of your promise that money saved by salary restraint will not be clawed back by the Treasury (a prospect which has not, unfortunately, been improved by more recent news of inflation in the public sector).

Another way is by a decline in the staff:student ratio.

The staff:student ratio in British universities is something of a sacred cow, protected by the UGC in its duty to defend quality, and by the academic scientific establishment, which often argues as if research will grind to a halt if the typical physics or chemistry department has to teach one more student. It must surely be possible to achieve a moderate reduction in the average staff:student ratio without such devastating consequences.

I know academic departments around the world which do a lot of

good teaching and research. I know others where the situation is somewhat opposite. If individual universities and colleges were left to work out their own salvation I am sure most would adjust to a rational balance between teaching and research that would serve the national interest adequately. Clearly, however, the UGC would need to retain the power to intervene against blatantly irresponsible behaviour by individual institutions.

Another way to reduce the public expenditure cost of higher education is by freezing the total cash available for student maintenance grants. Here is a plan for doing this. I do not like it very much because I like the present system, but it is better than cutting student numbers.

I suggest that a proportion of the existing cash total (how much I cannot estimate because I do not have the necessary data) be reserved for students whose parents are at the bottom end of the income scale; these students would receive a full grant. The remaining sum, whatever it turned out to be, would be divided among the remaining students in some reasonably equitable fashion: the total cash being fixed, the more students who gained places, the less on average for each.

The effect would be that no student would know their prospective grant until it had been determined whether or not they fell in the protected group, and that among the non-protected group the actual grant would not be known until it was clear how many had applied.

When a student eventually received a grant less than she, he

As the future of the University of Ulster is put in doubt, Robin Marris writes again to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, asking him to rethink his policy on university spending.

or the parents felt was needed, they would have to decide whether to look for other sources of finance or not to go to college.

If this all sounds like a horrible prospect to the British, I can assure my compatriots that it is precisely the process undergone by hundreds of thousands of United States students every year.

There are, however, serious problems in the way of any attempt to plant American methods of student finance on existing British soil. Only a small proportion of US undergraduates are able to find full finance in the form of pure grants or scholarships.

Many have to be entirely supported by their parents or by other means. One of these is parental support. The American scene is so different from Britain in this way that almost a social revolution would be required to adopt it here. I confess, also, that I am not hugely enthusiastic about it. But it is certainly efficient. A large proportion of casual jobs on American campuses — such as canteen workers, office and library assistants and parking police — are traditionally done by students. American undergraduate edu-

cation being rather highly programmed and not very contemplative, this system is fairly consistent with a state of affairs in which the subjects combine the roles of worker and student.

The other major American source of supplementary student finance is the Federal Government loan scheme. Billions of dollars of new loans go out under this scheme annually. But the present American scheme has serious economic problems and is not, in fact, much liked by President Reagan, whose Administration has been trying to cut it back.

Under the scheme a student borrows money from a private bank at an interest rate around 10 per cent, while the Government not only guarantees the loan but pays both the interest accumulated before 9 months after the student graduates and the difference between 10 per cent and the current market rate of about 15 per cent over the whole term of the loan.

For the American banks, this is profit for jam. For the Federal Treasury, it is an open-ended commitment which may increase the dreaded money supply.

There is no such thing as a free lunch. If a student loan scheme containing an interest subsidy were by some miracle accepted by the British Treasury it would surely be brought down by the Bank of England. Nevertheless, it remains the case that the Government possesses a potential capacity for collecting student debts and/or for insuring loans that will at least seem greater and cheaper than the same risk would appear to your average high-street bank manager. One can envisage a scheme in

which the central government or local authority provides guarantees for loans at variable interest rates equal to the going rate on medium-term, gilt-edged securities. Provided that there does exist in this country a policy for controlling the money supply — a matter about which there is controversy — the finance for these loans would be diverted from other uses, such as consumer credit, and should not, therefore, be inflationary according to monetarist theories.

It remains a problem that in the present, and prospective state of the economy, a responsible counsellor would be hard-put to advise a student to take on a significant burden of debt at current interest rates. After for more modest amounts of debt, the scheme could be a useful source of topping-up finance for students or parents who felt their grants, in any, were inadequate.

One suspects that many students and parents would find other solutions. It cannot be pretended that the plan as a whole would be popular. But if frankly presented it should at least be less unpopular than the present policy which, as you know, is proving very unpopular. The plan would also give individual universities themselves an incentive to fight hard against inflationary increases in student residence costs. The more successful they were, the more students they could attract. I know that you and I must be in total agreement that there is a moral there for the whole public sector.

Robin Marris

The author is Professor of Economics at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Missiles: the gap that must be closed

by William Rodgers

Social Democratic MP for Stockton

The history of nuclear defence policy is perhaps the outstanding example of government proceeding in secrecy, despite the very large sums of public money involved, and almost certainly with damaging consequences in terms of public support.

Conservative governments have relied on loyalty and strong military instincts to restrain probing from their supporters; Labour governments have believed the less said the better, given the pacifist leanings of theirs. The result has been a polarization of attitudes — either "in favour of" nuclear weapons or against — and virtually no discussion of technological, strategic and economic matters.

What became known as the Chevaline programme for the improvement of Polaris missiles (eventually costing the taxpayer £1,000m) was not explained to the House of Commons until (in a statement on January 24 1981) it had been completed.

Defence White Paper of 1975 had said of Polaris, "We shall maintain its effectiveness". Subsequently, as Minister of State for Defence, I was instructed to say that the Government was "updating" Polaris, although not going in for a new generation of nuclear weapons. There was no question, for example, of "MIRV-ing".

It is impossible to believe that those towards whom secrecy was justified, in particular the Soviet Union, failed to put two and two together or would have been wiser had the costs of the programme been revealed. A Member of Parliament with normal access to Washington defence gossip could also have made a shrewd guess at what was happening. Why, then, was Parliament not told?

But, in defence, the cloak of secrecy is beguiling. The Minister feels that he is sharing in dangerous and brave events. He is loath to suggest that the magic circle should be widened or to take

the risk should any breach of security result. It is a tough and exceptional Minister — and then only the head of the department — who says "Yes" when the Chiefs of Staff (who can appeal to the Prime Minister) advise him to say "No". Telling the House of Commons is an additional burden gratefully escaped.

Fear of publicity, rather than any pretence of security, delayed a debate on the case for Nato installing Cruise missiles in Britain until after the election of December 1979. A substantial literature on sea, air and land-launched Cruise missiles had grown up in the preceding five years. But, quite apart from discussion of technical questions and the choice between systems, there was virtually no reference to the relative importance of parity in theatre nuclear forces within the overall nuclear balance.

The British public were hardly aware of the Soviet SS-20 missiles until the decision on Cruise had to be justified.

The story was much the same with the decision to buy Trident to replace Polaris. In this case it was common knowledge that the Navy's Polaris submarines were likely to reach the end of their natural life in the early 1980s and that a long lead time would be required for a successor. The alternatives had been widely canvassed among defence experts and raised political, military and cost considerations which were controversial even among those wholly committed to nuclear strategy.

Ministers had had the matter on their desks at least since 1977 and early in 1980 it became clear that a decision was imminent. There was no reason whatsoever why the Government should not have published the options to be debated in the House of Commons before a final decision was made. In the event, the announcement was made first and the debate on the options paper — egregiously called Defence Open Govern-

ment Document 80/23 — merely sought endorsement of the Government's action.

I regret the failure of successive governments to take Parliament into its confidence on nuclear defence policy — and the failure of Parliament to pursue more vigorously its right to be consulted. But the issue goes wider. The majority of the public may be content to leave these matters to those who appear best able to judge them but a significant minority is not.

The campaign against nuclear arms of any kind has been growing with virtually no attempt by governments to encourage informed discussion and lead the public through the choices and the process of decision-making. There is no dispute about the grave risks associated with nuclear weapons on virtually every course. This is an area where a Select Committee has a particular responsibility to provide a vehicle for disclosure, from which it should not be diverted by the pressure of ministers.

There are civil matters about which the public has a right to know but where secrecy — or, at least, an obstructive reluctance to disclose information — has been the rule. This has happened with public inquiries, where the complexity of the issues and the cost of delay have been made the excuse. Civil servants have been defensive about their inability to explain their case in public, especially when it was of technical nature; and genuinely anxious about the damaging consequences of planning "blight".

The Council on Tribunals, set up in 1958 following the Franks Report, has a broad supervisory role over the constitution and work of certain bodies. But there is a case for a select committee to which the public could appeal when questions concerning disclosure by government departments were in dispute. The Parliamentary Commissioner is concerned solely with

maladministration. He has no power to instruct departments to remedy the consequences of their acts, although they rarely fail to do so. It should be possible to extend this principle to cover defined areas of dispute between individuals and the executive where access to information is plainly germane to an individual's defence of his rights.

Let me give an example of what I mean that arose when I was Secretary of State for Transport. In 1976, the Government announced a review of highway procedures. This followed in-

creased public concern about the effect of road schemes on communities and their environment which had been reflected in serious difficulties at some inquiries into road proposals. There was a feeling that vital information in the possession of the Department of Transport was being withheld from objectors; and that, together with high costs, this gave an unfair advantage to the promoters of road schemes.

Important motorway proposals were being delayed not on their merits but because one side had no means of judging their justification. Frustration had even led to violence and the system of enquiries was itself coming into disrepute. As Secretary of State, I was mainly responsible for the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Council on Tribunals. Substantial changes were made towards fuller disclosure in an area where tight-fistedness had been the tradition and this was complemented by a parallel decision to accept new recommendations for public criteria to determine which roads to build. This virtually put an end to disruption by removing a strong sense of grievance. If at an earlier stage, and without waiting for action by what was in effect the defendant department, the whole matter had been taken to a Select Committee, much of the subsequent trouble would have been avoided.

The power to initiate a review should not rest with the Government alone. And the setting-up of an appropriate Select Committee would put these matters in Parliament where they belong rather than in the hands of an independent but appointed outside body.

But I am not persuaded that government would be better if, as a matter of course, official advice to Ministers was disclosed and civil servants came to be held as much responsible for ministerial decisions as ministers themselves. If the confidential internal memorandum were to be automatically disclosed, it would be written in a different way. There would be "black" advice as well as the official record. Certain documents would be deodorized and made available to the public and others would move into a more secure category where they were free from prying eyes. In some cases (which did not really matter) the options open to ministers would be revealed; in others (with much at stake), as in the case of a great controversy within a department would be presented in terms of unanimity. For these reasons, I remain to be convinced about what some people see as within the scope of a Public Information Act.

This is an extract from William Rodgers's *The Politics of Change*, published today by Secker and Warburg, price £7.95.



The Judge about to become a jailbird

The recently retired Judge Edward Clarke, whose convictions in murder cases were overruled twice in one week "after this month has come to role in the BBC Theatre Society's forthcoming production of *Measure for Measure*. He plays Barnardine, "a dissolute prisoner."

Clarke has been a regular in the society's performances of Shakespeare and Moliere in recent years, but says that increasing age diminishes the roles he is prepared to tackle. He is 73 and Barnardine is on stage only about five minutes.

There is some excitement in legal circles, though, that Clarke may not yet have bowed out of his judicial role. It is rumoured that he may have applied to return as a relief judge at the Inner London Sessions, of that Clarke will only say "out must wait and see what happens."

In one of the murder cases in which Clarke's convictions were recently quashed, he had secretly passed a note to the jury giving them a deadline by which a verdict must be reached. The Appeal Court deplored his action as "a grave material irregularity." In the second case the Appeal Court held that Clarke had not dealt adequately, "if at all," with the accused's defence of provocation.

The first night of *Measure for Measure* is next Monday in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn.



The Israeli actor, playwright and director Gabriel Dagan has taken many curtain calls, but he declined to take a bow after the contralto Maureen Forrester recently sang something he wrote as a teenager in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

His narrative documenting camp life was one of five pieces gleaned from a volume of poetry and drawings by Theresienstadt children. They were put to music

by the Canadian composer Srul Irving Glick. Miss Forrester sang Dagan's words for several years in the United States, Canada and Europe believing the writer, whose original name was Peter Fischel, had later died in Auschwitz. Earlier this month a programme editor for the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra established that Fischel had hebraized his name to Gabriel Dagan and was living in Israel.

Dagan and his family were invited to the Israeli premiere. He declined to take a bow, he said, because he did not want to cry before 3,000 people.

The toast is...

Ronald Watkiss, Lord Mayor of Cardiff, will today read to Kerry Binding and her bridegroom Terence the first 11 verses of the second chapter of the Gospel according to John. The reading is a stipulated part of a dowry of £250 which the couple will receive from a fund established in 1897 by the third Marquis of Bute. To commemorate his Silver wedding he placed

Off target

A political row is brewing over the Welsh Art Council's decision to stop subsidizing Wales's English-language fortnightly, *Roedd*. In the final edition of the magazine, published over the weekend, John Osmond, the editor, alleges that bias among Welsh Arts Council members in favour of the Welsh language helped stop the grant and so kill his magazine.

In December, he says, Meic

Stephens, the council's literature director, managed further funding for 1982. The council decided otherwise and now Osmond has asked the select committee for Welsh Affairs to investigate the council's "lack of accountability."

Sir Hywel Evans, the council's chairman, says that the magazine's circulation of around 2,500 does not merit any more money and that he would happily fund an English-language magazine which sold better. *Roedd* was launched about 18 months ago with a circulation target of 5,000.

The brochure has been produced and paid for by the Labour-controlled Greater London council, which has noted how much has benefited from being on the site of the Community's patents office.

There is no mention anywhere in any of the three languages that the Labour Party is committed to leaving the EEC.

World audience

While the Pope is in Britain in May the BBC World Service will broadcast his play *Outside the Jewelers*, written in the late 1950s when he was auxiliary bishop of Cracow. It has already been heard by BBC listeners at home and the transcription service has sold it to radio stations in 27 countries.

The play is about love and marriage and stars Nigel Hawthorne, Barbara Jefford and Maureen O'Brien. Jeremy Verity of the transcription will be in Rome next weekend and will present the Pope with a copy of the tape at a general audience. He will also give him readings by Richard Pascoe and Hannah Gordon of the Pope's sequence of poems called *Easter Vigil*.

Don't bank on it

The jacket of a new sociological study of life in kibbutz is causing some embarrassment to its British publisher, Andre Deutsch. The jacket of the book,

Kibbutz Makom, by Israeli psychologist Amia Lieblich, carries a photograph of two women working in a sun-drenched Jordan Valley cornfield. "Lovely picture," everyone said, until PHS pointed out that the women were Palestinian Arabs wearing traditional costume and not members of a kibbutz at all. "Ouch," said a Deutsch spokesman, adding, "It's not our fault. We used the same jacket as the book's American edition."

Members of the Industrial Marketing Research Association are being put to the test. A circular inviting them to a meeting entitled *Researching for Innovation* leaves when and where the meeting is to be held.

On their medal

The Chinese National People's Congress has become the second of the Houses of Parliament to award a silver-gilt souvenir with Thames, couched in a green leather case. The first people to be given the medal were the Prince and Princess of Wales when they dined at the Palace of Westminster.

The medalion was presented to Peng Chong, a member of the Chinese Communist Party politico and a delegate from Shanghai to the National People's Congress, by a visiting parliamentary delegation led by Edward D. Cann and Arthur Bottomley. They were celebrating the tenth anniversary of normalization of British diplomatic relations with

China, at a lakeside restaurant where the Empress dowager used to like to eat.

Broad church

It is not only at St Paul's that Lent lunches are providing lively lectures. At Preston parish church in Lancashire to date the Bishop of Carlisle has vigorously expounded his belief in the sanctity of family life, only to find himself besieged by the divorced and separated demanding to know where they fitted in. Bishop E. R. "Ted" Wickham, doyen of the Church's experts on industry, talked of the creation of wealth and importance of investment, only to be accused of being a politician dressed as a priest, and the Bishop of Lancaster, says the rector, gave "fascinating insights on how to go about making churches redundant and demolishing them". Today's sacrificial victim is the chairman of the North Lancashire Methodist District, the Rev W. Knowles.

Quiz answers

1. Mary Whitehouse, who took *The Romans in Britain* to court. The show closed before the stars booked by the defence had appeared.
2. The Sultan of Oman.
3. At Westminster Bridge, where 69 demonstrators dressed as Lord Despatch hijacked a bus.
4. In Gnome. The *Solo* offices of his *Private Eye* are frequently mistaken for a brothel.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MR PRIOR'S THROW

Politics for Mr Prior is the art of the impossible, in his Ulster period anyway. For eight years the politicians of the province have demonstrated by word and deed that they cannot meet across the loyalty gap to engage in or sustain institutions of devolved government. All except for the integrationist school in the Unionist Party, want powers to be restored to the province, but all want the restoration on their own terms and all would prefer not to have it at all than to have it otherwise.

From that experience Mr Charles Haughey among others draws the conclusion that the province is not a "viable" political entity, and that it can be rendered viable only if it is reconstituted on a pan-Irish basis. Successive secretaries of state for Northern Ireland, who actually bear responsibility for the government of the province and the avoidance of civil war, have drawn from the same experience the different conclusion that, undaunted by their predecessors' failures, they must try again.

And so Mr Prior is found six months into his job poised to lay on the table, ingeniously presented and vainly disguised, the very dish that has been so frequently refused. The reason for this perseverance is multiple. It includes the following judgments: that the province is administratively (as distinct from politically) ripe for devolution because of its habits, situation and peculiarities; that Englishmen, however well-intentioned, are not

qualified to govern the place in detail; that the politicians there must be given something constructive to do if their influence is to be other than malign; that the events of the past fifteen years (not to say 400 years) dictate that if there are to be devolved institutions they must be such as to allow republican representatives to participate in the exercise of power; that it is needful, for both home and foreign consumption, to be seen to be doing something other than standing still.

The essence of Mr Prior's concoction is that there should first be elected a provincial assembly with consultative and scrutinizing functions. Executive or legislative powers could later be conferred piecemeal, when triggered by the combination of a formula and a judgment: the formula being of a weighted majority in the assembly, the judgment being that of the Secretary of State that the precondition of cross-community endorsement is satisfied.

The present state of play is that the small non-confessional Alliance Party is all in favour of what Mr Prior is trying to do; the SDLP, the main vehicle for constitutional republicanism, is dismissive of stage two and dissatisfied with the paucity of signposts pointing south, but it would probably enter the elections though it has not committed itself to do so; Mr Paisley's unionists are keen to get elected but denounce stage two; Mr Molyneux's unionists have just

echoed that denunciation but would not boycott an election. The reception is discouraging. Both Mr Roy Mason and Mr Humphrey Atkins, having taken similar soundings, desisted. The openness with which Mr Prior has set about his task (it is a gross absurdity for the Unionists to talk of having been "deceived" and "double-crossed" when the whole thing has been taking place in a goldfish bowl) has given his initiative a political momentum that can hardly now simply be cancelled.

The Cabinet has yet to approve the scheme in its final form and Conservative members of Parliament have to make it possible to proceed, but it would be unwise of either to pull out the plug. Of course, an assembly whose members have nothing much to do except berate the administration and insult each other (which must be accounted the most likely outcome) would tend to political mischief. But it cannot be said with certainty that Mr Prior's rolling devolution with its enticements of office will not roll. The benefits to the province would be considerable if it did. The preliminary processes of establishing an assembly afford time for security forces to tighten their squeeze on the Provisional IRA. Expectations on that front are better kept cold, but there is reason to think that information from outside and informers from within are weakening the IRA's structure and morale. Decisive evidence of that would do more than anything else to improve political prospects in the province.

PRESENTING INDIA TODAY

The story has it that in the nineteenth fifties, when the French began divesting themselves of their Indo-China territories, Mr Nehru refused to recognize Cambodia: it was not truly independent, he claimed, perceiving French apron-strings still dangling behind. But calling in at Phnom Penh after a visit to Peking he was taken for a drive through the Cambodian countryside. During his tour he noted with growing pleasure in the traces of Cambodia's ancient civilization, unmistakable visual evidence of the Hindu cultural tide that had swept across the region in the distant past. That tide had long ago receded but the traditions were still alive. Thus the history that Mr Nehru knew well enough had been brought to life. Returning to New Delhi he promptly reversed his decision and recognized the government in Phnom Penh.

Such occasions of culture directly influencing politics may be rare, either springing from personal impulse or from a scarcely conscious sentiment that has taken shape over decades. There is no evidence, for example, that the nineteenth century fashion for Japanese art and artifacts made Europeans any better aware of the significant changes then in progress following the Meiji restoration.

The re-evaluation of Chinese art, particularly Chinese painting, sixty years ago in Britain led to no better understanding or even interest in the revolutionary outlook then stirring in China. Which is to say, perhaps, that past and present occupy separate compartments quite apart from the division between politics and culture.

Nevertheless, sentiment runs more - reputation is acquired. Last year Japan was very much put on the map in Britain with a major art exhibition buttressed by many smaller artistic or informative exhibits. This evening at the Royal Festival Hall two Prime Ministers, Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher, will attend a concert that inaugurates the Festival of India, a considerable enterprise over several months in which art, music and sculpture of all ages, together with some passages of India seen through western eyes in the early days of British rule, will be presented to the British public. Half of that public has no direct memory of the era of British rule and even those who have such memories or were associated with that rule never had such a conspectus of India as the Festival aims to present.

The aftermath of that era through the fifties and sixties gave to an older generation in

both countries the sense of a special relationship. The affairs of the sub-continent were followed closely. The sense of responsibility was such that a problem like Kashmir, for example, was often likely to cause anxiety in Downing Street and even to prompt attempts at mediation. It is doubtful if Kashmir has ever worried Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet. With Britain's membership of the European Community and the dying out of a generation that served in India and relished their memories, the special relationship expired in the seventies, though not without some distress to many Indians during the period when its vigour was ebbing. Now the politics of India are seen from afar.

The more reason for culture to be put on show. The classical past of Asia is divided between China and India and it is a necessary education for all of us. Moreover in the past India was far too often interpreted by a ruling class of British whose contact with India was confined to an English-speaking ruling class in India. The cultural span goes beyond that. Music, dance, art can speak directly to us, whether past or present. The Festival is a presentation of India by Indians and appreciation can be unconstrained by prejudice.

world man be blown up by Saturday. Poor Harold (Macmillan) he's on the phone to Washington every hour on the hour.

Over a period of a few years I remember Rab's calm being only once visibly disturbed. On arriving in his room I realized that he was uncharacteristically edgy, and that the mandarin's mask had slipped. He was, at the time, being much asked by the Queen if he could form a government, and he said he would try. Everything depended on Rab, who had a heavy cold and was staying at St. James's House while his Smith Square house was redecorated. Seven ministers, including some of the strongest in the Cabinet, awaited his decision. He had only to stand firm.

At 10pm, with the first edition of *The Times* rolling, I telephoned St. Ermin's and was put through to the Butler suite. Geoffrey was asked by the Queen if he could form a government, and he said he would try. Everything depended on Rab, who had a heavy cold and was staying at St. James's House while his Smith Square house was redecorated. Seven ministers, including some of the strongest in the Cabinet, awaited his decision. He had only to stand firm.

It may be said of Rab that he could be disloyal to colleagues partly because he could never resist a good encoded joke, but he could never commit any disloyalty to a party that did not hesitate to be disloyal to him. I remember the typically cynical account he gave of Peter Thorneycroft's resignation as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1958: "Peter asked, you know, for cuts of £150 million, and we gave him

all but £50 million. We were astonished when he resigned. After all, he has no money and needs the salary." Three cheers for Peter Thorneycroft.

My pupillage to Rab from which I draw continuing benefits, ended on a Friday night in October 1963. That day the Earl of Home had been to Buckingham Palace for 20 years, and the Queen if he could form a government, and he said he would try. Everything depended on Rab, who had a heavy cold and was staying at St. James's House while his Smith Square house was redecorated. Seven ministers, including some of the strongest in the Cabinet, awaited his decision. He had only to stand firm.

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New obstacle to citizenship

From Mrs Ann Dummett
Sir, The Home Office has recently announced that the fees for obtaining citizenship are to be raised on April 1 to £200 for naturalisation and discretionary registration, and to £70 for registration by entitlement. Whether the intention be to raise revenue or to slow down applications the effect will undoubtedly be an arbitrary denial of citizenship to thousands of people who wish to apply and who can satisfy all the conditions as to length of residence, good character and future intentions that the Home Office may require.

A fee of £200 is unquestionably beyond the means of anyone unemployed or on low pay. It is a heavy burden even for someone earning an average wage. The father of family, wishing to apply for citizenship for his wife and child at the same time, would have to pay over £300, nearly £500 if his child had just turned 18. Even the £70 fee is impossible for someone living on social security, and the Supplementary Benefits Commission has made clear that it will not pay citizenship fees.

It should be remembered that thousands of aliens and Commonwealth citizens now living here have spent the greater part of their working lives here, paying National Insurance and have only recently become members of the community, through no fault of their own. The £70 fee applies to registration of Commonwealth citizens who have lived here continuously since before 1973 and were legally settled here then, and to wives, or former wives, of British men. The Home Secretary cannot refuse an applicant in these categories who satisfies the statutory requirements. But imposing an impossible charge is, in effect, to deny a statutory entitlement. What is at issue is a legal right.

Yours sincerely,
ANN DUMMETT,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1.
March 18.

Stubbs appeal

From Mr Julian Pritchard
Sir, May I be allowed to comment on the appeal launched by the Fitzwilliam Museum for funds to buy a painting by Stubbs as reported by you (March 16)? Stubbs, like Canaletto, is a painter so admired in this country that one feels bold to question his reputation as an artist, yet I think it should be questioned. Undoubtedly he was a great celebrator of the horse; his anatomical knowledge of it is well known. But a horse does not make a painting and even in a newspaper reproduction this is sufficiently clear. The case of "Cimeter" with John Pratt on Newmarket Heath?

Whatever qualities a painting has, it surely stands or falls on its composition, and Stubbs's can be very inept: for example, the horse's rump just touches the line of the wall, the underside of his belly just breaks the top of a distant tree, in neither case for any obvious expressive reason. The horse has the effect of a montage introduced, like the building, into a landscape that exists on separate terms. It needs little of an artist's eye to see that the whole picture needs "pulling together". Anatomist that he was, he knew the parts of things more than he knew how to coordinate them.

According to the state of the market, £50,000 may be a fair price; but with these compositional faults, which I think are demonstrable and serious, can the painting properly be described as a "great masterpiece" and is it worth the sum required to place it in what is not an equestrian museum, but a museum of art? A work whose purchase requires a public appeal must be very good indeed. If art museums are to be temples of excellence it is enough that it is a masterpiece by the collection by representing a strand of English painting?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN PRITCHARD,
25 Clarendon Road,
Balderton Street, W1.
March 16.

Legal precedence

From Mr Michael Scott
Sir, I think the Hon. Sir Charles Marnock, KBE, may claim to hold the record for the Commonwealth since he holds office as a Judge of the Fiji Court of Appeal at the age of 90. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SCOTT,
Chief Registrar,
Supreme Court,
Government Buildings,
Suva, Fiji.
March 10.

Welsh television

From Mr R. W. Wordley
Sir, In his excellent article published on February 22, Tim Jones may have been inadvertently misunderstood by his readers on two matters of importance - first, that viewing figures to Sianel Pedwar Cymru (S4C) in Wales should be a yardstick to judge the success of a television service designed to sustain a cultural heritage. Surely such statistics are inappropriate in this context.

The article also stated that "the new channel will cost an estimated £20m to run..."

Britain's role in European defence

From Sir Edward Peck

Sir, In today's issue (March 19), Sir Bernard Burrows correctly draws attention to the inadequacy of Western European Union (WEU) as an institutional framework for strengthening European defence policy. One of his (and my) former Nato colleagues once wittily described the WEU as "an institution without an effort", whereas the Eurogroup (the group of European states which are not members of the WEU) is "an effort without an institution". Indeed since its inception in 1968, the Eurogroup has done good work in harmonising European logistics, equipment procurement and similar matters within Nato. French institutional reluctance to participate has been largely overcome, at least in the field of arms procurement, by the formation of the Independent European Programme Group.

None the less the Eurogroup has also encouraged the emergence of a body concerning itself in future with European defence policy must do likewise - that there can be no sense in having two strategies within one alliance and that for the measurable future Europe is incapable of defending itself against the Soviet Union without the essential and ungrudging assistance of the United States, in particular the nuclear guarantee. It follows that any independent European defence policy is unrealistic until the day when it can be backed by sufficient military strength to justify abandoning the American commitment.

In your same issue Dr Robert McGowan makes it plain that European lethargy is likely to make this day a remote one. All the same there is nothing like a hint of American withdrawal from Europe to bring the Europeans together. A balance can and must be struck between American disillusionment with the supposed failure of the Europeans to help themselves and European frustrations with what some see as the domineering leadership of the United States. The value of the North Atlantic alliance lies not in the slavish following of American demands by the Soviet Union of members of the Warsaw Pact, but in a frank and sometimes fierce exchange of views across the Atlantic. In this exchange Britain has a unique role to play in interpreting Europe to America and the United States to the Europeans.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD PECK,
13 Blenheim Drive,
Oxford.
March 19.

From Dr Norman Dombey
Sir, Dr Kreider (March 16) rightly rebukes the Secretary of State for Defence for telling the House of Commons on March 11 that "the non-proliferation treaty never sought to refer to existing nuclear powers", and quotes article VI of the treaty on the undertakings of all the parties to the treaty to negotiate in good faith on the "cessation of the

East Timor
From Miss Carmel Budiardjo
Sir, Atauro, the island to which 4,000 Timorese have been banished by Indonesia (*The Times*, March 5), has for some time been described by letters smuggled out of East Timor as a prison island. It is coming to be known as the "Buru of East Timor", a reference to Buru Island, which was used from 1969-79 as a prison camp and forced labour centre for more than 11,000 untried political prisoners.

It is good to know the International Red Cross have been allowed to visit prisoners on Atauro Island. By the very nature of its work, however, it will keep its findings confidential. On past experience of International Red Cross visits to prisons and camps in Indonesia where political prisoners were held, it is more than likely that pre-visit changes will have occurred to make things appear more acceptable and to remove any prisoners who might attempt to talk freely to the visitors. I know personally of many instances when this happened in Jakarta, Buru and elsewhere.

Following on the Red Cross visit, the Indonesian Government last week allowed Mr Gough Whitlam, former Australian Prime Minister, to visit East Timor so as to make an "independent assessment" of conditions in the country. (*Sunday Morning Herald*, March 3). Mr Whitlam is as far from being independent on East Timor as almost any politician of the world over. His latest act of independence was a tour of African countries last year during which he lobbied African countries to support Indonesia's annexation of East Timor at last year's UN General Assembly.

A real picture of conditions in East Timor, regarding the conditions of the prisoners, the likelihood of famine and more

Letters to the Editor

nuclear arms race at an early date". That, however, is not the only undertaking made under the treaty by a weapon state. Article 1 contains the provision that "Each nuclear weapon state party to the treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly." So, for example, if the intended purchase of Trident D5 were to include the nuclear warheads as well as the missiles it would clearly violate the treaty.

It is understood that Britain will provide her own nuclear warheads for the missiles, thus remaining within the letter, if not the spirit, of the treaty. But the matter is even more complicated, for under the May 1959 amendment to the US-UK mutual defence agreement, the US Government is empowered to transfer to the UK Government "special nuclear material, and other material, for research on, development of, or use in atomic weapons".

According to the well-informed French nuclear scientist, Bertrand Goldschmidt, in his book *Le Complexe Atomique* (Payot, 1980) this special nuclear material "decidely which would not step out of line" will probably be demonstrated shortly when the Government is expected to announce that several tonnes of CEBG (Central Electricity Generating Board) plutonium is to be sold to the United States to fuel the Clinch River fast reactor, an ostensibly peaceful use. What the Government is not expected to announce is that this transfer of "peaceful" plutonium to the United States will allow the US Department of Energy to change the use of a reactor at Richland, Washington State, from the production of plutonium destined for Clinch River to weapon-grade plutonium (*New York Herald Tribune*, October 12, 1981).

It is therefore not surprising that the non-weapon states no longer take the provisions of the non-proliferation treaty very seriously.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN DOMBEY,
Science Policy Research Unit,
University of Sussex, Brighton.
March 18.

generally the way in which the country is being run by the Indonesian occupation troops, can only be obtained by genuinely independent observers who are given free and unfettered access. This the Indonesians have consistently failed to allow which only suggests that they have a great deal to hide.

Yours faithfully,
CARMEL BUDIARDJO,
TAPOL (British Campaign for the Release of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia),
8a Treport Street, SW18.
March 8.

From Mr Jacob de Vries
Sir, It is naive of Mr David Simpson and others (report, March 12) to assume that sponsoring the arts tobacco companies seek to avoid the curbs on advertising imposed on sports sponsorship. Media coverage of sponsored arts events, however, is infinitesimal compared with that of tobacco-sponsored sport. I can recall only two musical events connected with cigarette sponsorship screened on television last year and in those overt references to the sponsor were virtually unnoticeable.

Far from trying to curb tobacco sponsorship of the arts Mr Simpson should encourage it, since it provides money where it is most needed. He should adopt the attitude of Benjamin Britten who, when told of the request by Benson and Hedges to stage an annual chamber music festival at Aldeburgh, said: "How can we not accept an offer to bring such great musicians to the Maltings?"

Yours faithfully,
JACOB DE VRIES,
5 Dryden Street,
Covent Garden, WC2.
March 13.

Bronze Age finds at Dover

From the Chief Archaeologist of the National Maritime Museum
Sir, Ronald Faux's timely article on the underwater site in Dover harbour (March 15) rightly draws attention to the importance of this Bronze Age excavation. During five seasons' work, 25 bronze objects have been recovered from the site of a possible boat wreck of c1100 BC. The site is important not only because it contained the largest Middle Bronze Age assemblage known in Britain or in British waters, but also because of the nature of these finds. Most of the bronzes, including tools, weapons and fragments of bracelets, appear to have originated in eastern France and Brittany. Some of the items recovered are waste from bronze casting and others had been deliberately cut or broken. Such an assemblage strongly suggests a cargo of scrap bronze in transit from France to Britain rather than "loot", as stated in Mr Faux's article.

The aims of the forthcoming season of work, will be financed by the National Maritime Museum. Answers to questions about the type and extent of the site, should enable the National Maritime Museum and the British Museum to determine what work should be undertaken in subsequent seasons.

Bronze Age plank boats have been excavated from estuary sites in Humberside at Brigg and North Ferriby, but the environmental conditions there were more favourable than at Dover to the preservation of wooden and other organic remains. Further investigation of the Dover site should provide more information crucial to our understanding of cross-Channel trade in the Bronze Age.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN MCGRAIL,
National Maritime Museum,
SE10.
March 17.

Up front

From Mr Geoffrey Ashton
Sir, Whilst you are right to draw attention to the delightful Playhouse, Charing Cross (Diary, March 12) and the exciting possibility of its return to the live theatre fold, it is perhaps over hasty to describe its curving curtain wall as the fourth oldest theatre facade in London. Apart from the other, albeit less attractive, frontages of the 1870s and 1880s one great and historic theatre has been omitted: the Lyceum.

The Lyceum portico was built by Samuel Beazley in 1834. However, the auditorium behind, and the stage on which Sir Henry Irving performed for thirty years, were replaced in 1904 by Bertie Crew's flamboyant interior. It is a large and practical theatre, the seating capacity could be greater even than Drury Lane, and the riotous decoration and magnificently baroque plasterwork make it one of the most attractive and atmospheric in London.

Perhaps, following the example of the Playhouse, the Lyceum, however, the auditorium behind, and the stage on which Sir Henry Irving performed for thirty years, were replaced in 1904 by Bertie Crew's flamboyant interior. It is a large and practical theatre, the seating capacity could be greater even than Drury Lane, and the riotous decoration and magnificently baroque plasterwork make it one of the most attractive and atmospheric in London.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ASHTON, Librarian,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.
March 12.

Countryside cooperation

From Mr Malcolm MacEwen
Sir, Mr Hew Watt (March 17) has been misled by your report of the national parks conference (March 9). The brush between myself and a senior official of the Ministry of Agriculture is evidence not, as your correspondent suggested, of a "gulf" between farmers and conservationists but of mounting criticism of the ministry. The ministry's policies for hill and upland farming, and in particular its refusal to apply the EEC less favoured area directive to the social and environmental purposes for which it was designed, are injuring not only the landscape and the conservation interest in national parks but also the wellbeing of many hill and upland farmers.

The tragedy of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, in which Mr Watt has so much confidence, is that it missed the chance to give agricultural policies the broad social and environmental objectives they so badly need.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MACEWEN,
Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning,
University College London,
Wates House,
22 Gordon Street, WC1.
March 20.

Optical illusion

From Mr John Le Carré
Sir, Like others of your readers, apparently, I had always taken it for granted until today that *Private Eye* was edited from a brothel (report, March 18). I am appalled to think what sort of propositions may not have been made to the honest salespersons in the establishment below (described in the report as a sex shop), and I trust that the authorities will take all necessary steps to prevent the corruption of sex shops by an element of society which Soho has until now successfully kept at arm's length.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LE CARRE,
c/o Farquharson's,
Bell House,
Bell Yard, WC2.
March 18.

BITUARY
MISS
ARJORIE
OLLARD
Influential figure in hockey

Marjorie Ollard, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great woman of her generation. She was the England's best known female hockey player, and a leading figure in the sport. She played for the England team from 1921 to 1932, and was captain of the team from 1921 to 1929. She was also a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. She was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. She was also a member of the Women's Hockey Association. She was a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. She was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. She was also a member of the Women's Hockey Association.

CAPTAIN SIR PHILIP ROSE

Philip Rose, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great man of his generation. He was a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. He was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. He was also a member of the Women's Hockey Association.

MR REGINALD HINCH

Reginald Hinch, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great man of his generation. He was a leading figure in the development of the sport in this country. He was a member of the Hockey Association and the Hockey Federation. He was also a member of the Women's Hockey Association.

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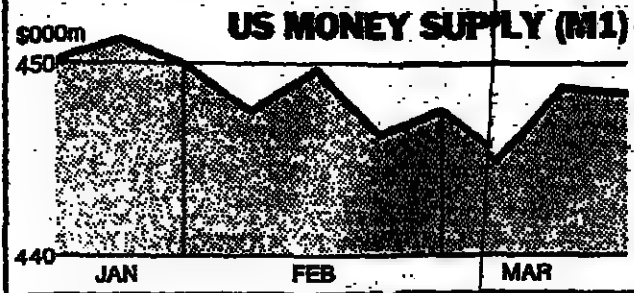
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Fed slows M1



United States money supply (M1) fell fractionally last week to \$448,400m (€250,500m) from \$448,800m the previous week. After an alarming rise in growth earlier this year, the Federal Reserve Bank appears to have kept M1 under better control recently, although it is still well above this year's target range of 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 per cent. Analysts fear a rapid, if temporary, increase in M1 in April, accompanied by higher interest rates because of payment of tax rebates.

Pressure on the TSB

Moves are believed to be afoot to bring together the 16 regional Trustee Savings Banks under single holding company as part of plans to bring the TSBs into the private sector. At present the TSBs, comprising 16 unincorporated societies with a central board set up by statute, are controlled by the Treasury and are exempt under the 1979 Banking Act. According to Retail Banker International there is pressure on the TSBs to agree on a new structure prior to legislation needed for a move to full banking status.

Survey of taxation

The effects of the tax and social security systems on the incentive to work and the creation of the so-called poverty trap is to be examined by a sub-committee of the influential all-party Select Committee of MPs on the Treasury and Civil Service. The sub-committee, headed by Labour MP Mr. Michael Meacher, has appointed as specialist advisers Professor A. B. Atkinson of the London School of Economics, and Mr. John Kay, research director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Multi-channel cable television is backed by a report out today from the Cabinet Information Technology Advisory Panel. The panel, headed by Mr. Michael Meacher, has appointed as specialist advisers Professor A. B. Atkinson of the London School of Economics, and Mr. John Kay, research director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

THE WEEK AHEAD

All eyes on Eage Star

LONDON EXCHANGE
FT index 682.75 rose 5.9
FT 100s 84.95 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.18 up 3.92
Bargains 18,408

Insurance shares are in the spotlight this week, with final results due on Wednesday from Prudential, and on Friday from Alliance Assurance.

But most attention is likely to focus on the composite sector where Eage Star may see company Wednesday's results with comments on the likely intentions of Allianz Versicherung which holds a 28 per cent stake.

The share price has remained buoyant on the assumption that the German group would make a further bid when its 32 million takeover code cooling-off period expires in June.

Talks are believed to have taken place between the two sides since the previous bid lapsed, and there were even reports that a suit in the United States was being sought as a preferable alternative.

One other possibility would be to dilute the Allianz stake by issuing some of the 43 million shares authorized but unused, which could cut the Allianz stake to little over 20 per cent.

At the half-way stage pre-tax profits exceeded market expectations, jumping from £29.5m to £38.5m pre-tax, and despite continued weakness of motor manufacturers and the effects of severe winter weather, on the second half, analysts expect to see taxable profits up from £65.9m to about £73m in the year to December.

DIARY

Today: Gross domestic product (fourth quarter provisional). Tomorrow: Institute of Directors' annual conference Royal Albert Hall, London. Unemployment figures and limited vacancies (quarterly provision). Wednesday: Education, Science and Arts Committee on biotechnology. Phillips and Drew international investment conference. Construction new orders (January).

ECONOMIC VIEW

Today sees the publication of the income and expenditure measures of gross domestic product for the first quarter of 1981, with the first indication of what happened to company profits. The output measure of GDP published last month showed a 1/2 per cent rise between the third and fourth quarters.

Unemployment figures for March are released tomorrow. The number of jobless usually shows a fall in March as more school leavers find jobs and better weather means extra jobs in outdoor occupations. So the "beaches" total may fall from its February level of 3,045 million. The underlying trend, though, will still be upward.

On Thursday the Bank of England will reveal its assessment of the state of the British economy in its quarterly Bulletin. Analysts will be trying to read between the lines to spot the differences of view between the Bank and the Treasury.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY—Interim: Old Court Initial Reserve, J. & J. Maltin, Mills, Reliable Properties, Second City Properties, Trafford Park Estates, Woodrow Wyatt, Finlay, Arcliffe Holdings, Beaton Clark, Cattle's Holdings, Consultants (Computer & Financial), Exeter Building and Construction Group, Jackson Exploration Inc., Raydon PWS, Squire-Horn, Williams Horn, Williams and Jones (Engineers).

Mrs Gandhi's visit set to boost exports

By Peter Hill and Clive Cookson

Britain will use this week's official visit by Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to promote seals that could bring British industry £1,150m worth of business and preserve thousands of jobs.

The two main projects are a £1,000m power station and associated coal mine, and the first overseas order for System X Britain's electronic telephone exchange, worth about £150m.

Negotiations on the power station project, in which Northern Engineering Industries is the lead contractor, have reached an advanced stage. Although it is likely to be some months before a letter of intent is signed, British ministers hope Mrs Gandhi's visit will provide a new impetus for decisions.

The British Government has been heavily involved in negotiations with NEL, the National Engineering Laboratories, responsible for most of the power station equipment, apart from the turbine generators, which GEC would supply.

The power station is to be built at Singrauli. The National Coal Board would provide technical assistance for the associated mine at Karanpura.

System X is the telephone switching system developed by British Telecom and its three main suppliers over the past decade. It is still waiting for its first export order, three years after the four organizations set up a joint company, British Telecommunications Systems (BTS), to sell the exchange abroad.

Until recent, BTS concentrated its efforts on adapting the System X specifications for export, and on identifying possible markets, rather than on an all-out sales campaign. However, under pressure from a Government anxious to capitalize on the public money spent developing the exchange, a more aggressive sales drive is now under way.

India is the first big prospect. In January Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Information Technology, and Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, visited India to promote System X.

Under BTS rules, one partner becomes lead contractor for each export market after the joint company has laid the groundwork. It is solely responsible for the final tender and—if successful—for building and installing the exchanges. GEC, which is taking the lead in India, will submit its tender before the end of this month.

The Indian contract, which would be worth £100m to £150m, would initially involve electronic switching equipment for about 200,000 telephone lines, requiring perhaps 20 exchanges. The Government will also expect the successful bidder to set up one or two factories in India to manufacture switching equipment under licence.

India is seen by British ministers as holding huge export potential for United Kingdom companies. India's recently negotiated £3,000m loan from the International Monetary Fund, a large part of which is earmarked for promoting industrial development.

Natwest weighs in behind Whitehall

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Support for the Government's economic policies has come from National Westminster.

Mr Robert Leigh-Pemberton, chairman, says in the bank's annual report that it has become apparent that high inflation is deeply embedded in Britain and has left industry seriously uncompetitive.

"It is difficult to see any alternative to the acceptance of the severity of the present policies designed to reduce the growth of money supply and the level of public expenditure and thus control inflation," he says.

There are grounds for believing that industry will be more competitive when the economy turns up, but he counsels against a policy of general refutation, which could lead to rising prices.

He advocates government measures to cut industry's costs to stimulate economic activity, and suggests that nationalized industries might also help.

"We therefore think it right to support the Government's broad monetary strategy although the specific targets need to be defined and interpreted," Mr Leigh-Pemberton said yesterday.

Moves to oust ACC head

Directors of ACC are expected to meet today to discuss whether Mr Robert Holmes & Court should step down as chairman. Support appears to be growing, supported by the fact that TVW Enterprises bought shares in ACC in the stock market at above the bid price and then failed to declare the purchases within the required time.

ACC directors are worried over whether they are still obliged to stick to irrevocable undertakings to sell their voting shares to Mr Holmes & Court.

There has been disquiet in the City over the possible conflicts of interest that Mr Holmes & Court's dual role might involve. The ACC board is also thought to have been embarrassed by Mr Holmes & Court's breach of the takeover code when TVW Enterprises bought shares in ACC in the stock market at above the bid price and then failed to declare the purchases within the required time.

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Sinclair shares for sale

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Mr Clive Sinclair plans to sell off part of Sinclair Research, his two-year-old microelectronics company which has an estimated profit of £5m a year.

He has asked Rothschild's merchant bank to arrange a private placing of shares in Sinclair Research. Rothschild, which is still smarting from public criticism of its valuation of Amersham International, may find it even more difficult to judge the right price for Sinclair shares.

"At the moment we don't know how to value the business," a Rothschild executive said. As a first step, the bank has sent in a firm of accountants to report on the finances and future prospects of the company.

Rothschild hopes that the report, with Sinclair Research's results for its second full financial year ending on March 31, will allow a price to be agreed during the summer. The shares could be placed with City institutions in the autumn.

Mr Sinclair is thinking of selling about 20 per cent of the company. He wants to raise money for his ambitious research and development programme. Sinclair Research runs four laboratories, including one in Exeter working on an electric car to be launched in 1984.

Sinclair Research has not existed long enough to qualify for a quotation on the London stock exchange, and Mr Sinclair and Rothschild do not like the idea of trading the shares on the unlisted securities market. But, in the longer run, Sinclair is heading toward a full stock market quotation.

The company's extraordinary, though brief, growth record should allow Rothschild to place the shares at a very fancy price. On the other hand, Sinclair's performance so far has been due almost entirely to the ZX81 home computer, which has sold more than 300,000 units during the year since its launch.

A one-product company, dependent on the genius of one man, Mr Sinclair, may not look so attractive. Therefore Rothschild will evaluate future products—particularly the ZX2 follow-up computer and the £50 flat-screen television which will be launched later this year—very carefully before it puts a value on the company.

Several British and European companies are challenging tax laws operated by a number of American states, which they claim, are penalizing their United States operations.

At least 50 British companies, including ICI, Unilever, Cadbury-Schweppes and Reckitt & Colman, together with dozens of French, German, Italian, Dutch and other European multinational groups, are campaigning against the laws. Legal proceedings have been taken to the United States Supreme Court alleging that some of the tax laws enforced by several states, including Oregon, Illinois and California, infringe the United States constitution.

European employers' organizations, among them the Confederation of British Industry, are spearheading the legal challenge on which the Supreme Court will shortly be asked for a decision. At the centre of this legal wrangle is the issue of unitary taxation, a system under which a company's tax liability is calculated on a proportion of the world-wide profits of the entire group.

UNICE, the confederation of European employers' organizations, has lodged a detailed submission with the Supreme Court. It is being supported strongly by the CBI which has spent five years arguing over the unitary taxation issue, with support from the European Community, the United Kingdom Government.

Under the terms of the 1981 Companies Act, businesses must display the owner's name at the place of business, as well as an address, but, according to Mr Cordoroy, this is not an effective substitute for the old registry.

"We're alarmed that anyone has made a bid, because possession of the index of business names registrations means they can charge high fees for access to information which has been compiled for the public's use."

He said that with high fees and the high number of searches—175,000 in 1979—the owner of such information could make large sums of money.

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Bid for business index 'a scandal'

By Drew Johnston

Trouble is brewing over the destination of more than a million highly-detailed card-indexed business records held by the now-defunct Registry of Business Names closed last month after 66 years' part of the Government's drive to reduce the numbers of Civil Service jobs.

To the fury of the credit agency industry which used the records extensively in assessing credit worthiness, a bid for the records has been made by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry which last month set up an alternative, "free enterprise" business registry.

The LCCI has made it clear that its business search charges will be substantially greater than the search fee of 5p levied by the old registry. A fee of £10 has been mooted.

No decision on the bid has been taken by the Government, but a statement from Dr Gerard Vaughan, consumer Affairs Minister, is expected shortly.

A Department of Trade spokesman said the LCCI had asked the Department to sell its records for use in its registry service. "We've been considering it for some weeks."

Mr George Cordoroy, a spokesman for Stationers' Law Society, who described himself as representing around 75 per cent of company registration agents said: "We think it's a scandal."

"We're alarmed that anyone has made a bid, because possession of the index of business names registrations means they can charge high fees for access to information which has been compiled for the public's use."

He said that with high fees and the high number of searches—175,000 in 1979—the owner of such information could make large sums of money.

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Europeans test US tax laws

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Several British and European companies are challenging tax laws operated by a number of American states, which they claim, are penalizing their United States operations.

At least 50 British companies, including ICI, Unilever, Cadbury-Schweppes and Reckitt & Colman, together with dozens of French, German, Italian, Dutch and other European multinational groups, are campaigning against the laws. Legal proceedings have been taken to the United States Supreme Court alleging that some of the tax laws enforced by several states, including Oregon, Illinois and California, infringe the United States constitution.

European employers' organizations, among them the Confederation of British Industry, are spearheading the legal challenge on which the Supreme Court will shortly be asked for a decision. At the centre of this legal wrangle is the issue of unitary taxation, a system under which a company's tax liability is calculated on a proportion of the world-wide profits of the entire group.

UNICE, the confederation of European employers' organizations, has lodged a detailed submission with the Supreme Court. It is being supported strongly by the CBI which has spent five years arguing over the unitary taxation issue, with support from the European Community, the United Kingdom Government.

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Marwin to market Bosch technology

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A new deal that will increase imports of industrial automation technology to Britain has been concluded between the Midlands-based Marwin Engineering Group and Bosch of West Germany.

The agreement covers the sale and production in Britain of the Bosch flexible manufacturing system, a range of equipment that can be built up to form a fully automated and integrated factory assembly line.

Flexible assembly, which brings together the latest developments in computer-controlled machine tools, robot and production automation, is commanding growing interest in Japan, Germany and the United States.

Marwin has yet to obtain a licence from the German Government support for automation as a means of increasing industry's competitiveness.

The Bosch system, regarded by the company as one of the first stages necessary to automate a factory totally, has already been installed in the German group's own plant for the assembly of motor components such as alternators and handamps and has been bought by other European companies.

Volkswagen is using the Bosch equipment for assembling water and oil pumps, Mercedes for steering mechanisms, Ford Germany for knuckle assemblies, and Grundig for cassette-recorder drives.

The new agreement gives Marwin exclusive rights to market the system in the United Kingdom and South Africa. The Wolverhampton-based group estimates the current market for automation equipment is £50m a year and expects this to increase at an annual rate of 25 per cent.

Growing awareness, particularly in the machine tool industry, which offers great prospects for all types of automated machines, has resulted in a number of other joint deals between British and overseas manufacturers.

One of the fruits of last year's high technology cooperation agreement by the Japanese and British governments, for example, was the signing by the British firm of a contract to produce in the United Kingdom the full range of industrial robots developed by Fujitsu Fanuc.

BUSINESS NEWS

ITALY
Relief as
fifth oil
chief
is named

The appointment of Signor Enrico Gandolfi as ENI's fifth head in three years has relieved the tension that was paralysing the management of Italy's state-owned oil corporation. But Signor Gandolfi has been put in as special government commissioner, only for six months and, unless his term is extended, he will be able to do little more than lay the foundations for recovery.

ENI, according to a member of the government, is losing 5,000m lire (£2m) a day, but the immediate cause for the dismissal of Signor Alberto Grandi, chairman, was political. As a Christian Democrat, he fell victim to logic whereby the giant corporation IRI should be headed by a Christian Democrat, ENI by a Socialist, and the smaller EFIM by a Social Democrat.

Signor Grandi became involved in public controversy with Signor Gianni De Michelis, the Socialist Minister for state industry, who called on him to resign, and with ENI's Socialist vice-chairman, Signor Leonardo Di Donna, who hoped to succeed him. In the end, the Socialists did not get all they wanted.

The case is not closed, however, because the minister intends to reform the whole public sector. The terms have expired of the other two corporations' chairmen, Signor Pietro Sette (Christian Democrat) at IRI and Signor Corrado Fiacca (Social Democrat) at EFIM.

Even if they are re-appointed, the chance is offered for a thorough shakeup, and the minister has circulated among the coalition parties a scheme for restructuring the three corporations.

Signor Gandolfi, aged 68, has been with ENI for 26 years, later as chairman of the SAIEP subsidiary. He is a non-political figure, under whom SAIEP has regularly reported profits and gained a world reputation in deep sea pipe laying.

At ENI, he faces several pressing problems. The government has to decide whether to approve an agreement concluded by ENI in January to take 180,000 million cubic metres of Soviet gas from the proposed Siberian pipeline.

Mindful of United States pressure, Rome has so far hesitated, but even if American opposition appears to have softened the coalition is divided between the Christian Democrats (in favour) and the Socialists and Social Democrats (against).

Negotiations have to be concluded with Algeria on the price of the methane to come through the Transmed pipeline.

On purely commercial grounds, the Italians are not in a hurry. The distribution network inside Italy is not yet ready. A report to the cabinet says gas supplies from existing domestic and foreign sources are enough to satisfy demand for at least two years.

With Saudi Arabia, ENI is seeking to resume direct purchases of oil from the state company Petromin. The Saudis suspended deliveries two years ago amid allegations of scandal over the destination of commission payments.

John Earle

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Capitalisation	Company	Change Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E Ratio	Industry
1,283	Ass Brit Ind Culs	129 +3	10.0	7.8	—	16.0
4,226	Airsprung Group	73	4.7	6.4	11.5	16.0
1,125	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
12,159	Bardon Hill	159	—	9.7	4.9	9.7
1,338	CCI, Ltd. Conv Pref	107	—	15.7	16.7	—
4,975	Deborah Services	63 -2	6.0	9.5	3.1	25.5
4,047	Frank Horrell	127 -1	6.4	5.0	11.4	23.5
11,702	Frederick Parker	81 +1	6.4	7.9	4.1	7.9
3,358	George Blair	95 +1	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3
2,615	Ind Prec Castings	109	—	15.7	14.4	—
2,454	Jackson Group	97 -1	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
15,734	James Burroughs	114 +1	8.7	7.6	8.3	10.5
2,520	Robert Jones	245 -5	31.3	12.6	3.4	8.8
3,180	Scruttons "A"	64 +1	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1
3,881	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1
2,885	Twinklind Ord	135	—	15.0	19.0	—
2,157	Twinklind Hse ULS	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5
10,014	Walter Alexander	79 +2	5.4	8.4	8.4	9.2
5,321	W. S. Y.	—	—	—	—	—



Gordon Borrie outside his home: "People won't argue — an unfortunate British trait"

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

Looking for a home-front breakthrough

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has decided that his concern to promote competition and improve the lot of the consumer will be focused this year on the householder.

The main initiative will be to get more done about shortcomings in home improvements work, from plumbing and plastering to roofing and re-pointing.

It should strike a chord with a number of Britain's 11.5 million owner occupiers and 9.5 million renters of property — as it does with Mr Borrie himself. At his part-15th century converted Worcestershire farmhouse he has recently had a wall blown down, been troubled with fuel-oil freezers and had to have the roof fixed.

He has decided he must soon do something about the decided lean assumed by a chimney stack that could fall through the roof. At least when a radiator bursts, the run of the old timers directed the water away from the carpets and straight out of a window and into the garden.

"It's nice when you have a bit of that sort of luck, but for some people involved in home improvement the need not strike all that often judging from the complaints I get," says Mr Borrie.

There are already developments in which Mr Borrie has been involved that are of potential benefit to householders. Legislation affecting estate agents in May introduced a number of protective measures with house purchasers' deposits having to go into a special account and a house seller having the legal right to know the basis of an agent's terms.

Mandatory scale fees for

estate agents have already been scrapped, but Mr Borrie admits that while there are signs that estate agents are willing to negotiate on fees, particularly for high-priced properties, a lot depends on their customers pressing for the best deal.

"The trouble is that people won't argue — an unfortunate British trait", Mr Borrie says.

He is turning a sharp eye on nearly 60 restrictive agreements between estate agents on a localized basis which deal among other things with valuation scales. Agents involved are being asked to drop them.

The Royal Institute of British Architects has agreed to drop its mandatory scales for fees although it remains to be seen how quickly competition actually breaks in.

"The householder will have to prod, and I intend to urge him or her to do just that", Mr Borrie said.

He judges that competition is less likely to grow among architects than estate agents. Property shops, some with computerized lists, have emerged on the high streets in competition with the traditional estate agent, but Mr Borrie is alarmed that such lower-priced competition could be running into problems.

There have been reports of some local newspapers being reluctant to take advertising from the property shops. The question is how far this might reflect a cosy arrangement between a local newspaper and the established estate agents in the locality.

Home improvements, in which Mr Borrie will produce a discussion paper today, was not an easy area for the Office of Fair Trading to

tackle. In one of those sectors that are hallmarked by fast growth and the hard doorstep sell, Mr Borrie has already had success; what he regards as an effective code of conduct agreed with the Glass and Glazing Federation covering the double-glazing sector.

An indemnity scheme now protects the consumer against financial failure of a contractor, particularly important where long-term guarantees are involved.

Contract terms have been altered to guarantee a cooling-off period for those who sign a deal one night and have second thoughts the next day.

Mr Borrie said: "We would like to extend this sort of voluntary agreement to other parts of the home improvement field." But there is a snag. In glazing the trade association covered 70 per cent of the companies in the business. But much of the rest of the home improvement sector is fragmented, with at least 300 trade bodies involved, many of them localized.

"It might be possible to build up something in some sectors like the plumbers, the building trade employers, the master builders. But it looks as if there is a very big element — not all deserving the description of cowboys — who choose not to belong to anything."

That could mean taking legislative action, a far longer process than securing voluntary codes through trade associations, as Mr Borrie readily admits.

A particular worry is where household work is done that carries a guarantee of 15 years or more. This usually occurs with pest treatment as for woodworm,

with cavity insulation, with damp proofing, and with outer wall treatments, including cladding.

But in 1980 20 per cent of all bankruptcies were in the building sector. A Which report showed that in the wood preservation sector, 600 out of 850 companies had ceased trading within two years, while a further 900 had set up in business.

The need for some form of indemnity such as a fund raised by bonding from the trades is clear.

Mr Borrie does have one possible weapon in addition to trying to work through the trade associations. It is precisely the fast-growth sectors in the home improvement field where companies usually arrange credit facilities for their customers.

But to be able to do this they need a credit trader's licence — which is dispensed by Mr Borrie. He can also revoke existing licences.

But he realizes that cleaning up the home improvement area is going to be a longer job than one year's effort. Mr Borrie said: "After 12 months we will have done our bit to get people to think more clearly about looking after their own interests better. And I look forward to greater competition in the provision of all kinds of financial and household services to the consumer."

Apart from anything else there is a drag anchor on any efforts made by either Mr Borrie or the trades to improve matters. How many house holders, taking on a craftsman, will agree to pay cash on a "black economy" basis, with no contract or protection, in order to get a job done more cheaply?

Derek Harris

MARSHALL FIELD TAKEOVER

BAT needs to provide logic and lustre

Twice during the 1870's Marshall Field's first large department store was burnt to the ground. First in the great Chicago fire of 1871 and again six years later.

It was rebuilt in magnificent style with two ornate clock towers and architectural splendour within. The splendour of the architecture may not have faded, but the group's profit performance has.

Expansion outside its Chicago base and traditional department store business has spread management too thin, according to some analysts. The figures produce a telling picture. In 1977 net earnings after tax were \$18.1m (£10m). In 1980 they were \$20.7m and in the third quarter of 1981 the latest published — were down from \$6.5m in the comparable three months to \$4.3m. Sales per square foot have slipped and so has the speed with

which merchandise is turned over.

Marshall Field, once the fashion centre of Chicago, has, according to Mr Walter Loebe, retail analyst of Morgan Stanley, "lost a great deal of lustre". He believes that it failed to stay exciting to the buying public, allowing successful groups, including BAT's own Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor and Neiman Marcus, to move in on its home territory.

Also, Mr Loebe believes, it indulged in "illogical expansion plans". Since Mr Angelo Arena became president in 1977, coming from the position of chairman of Neiman Marcus, Marshall Field has tripled the number of its stores. Acquisitions have included the Breuners furniture chain.

Mr Arena successfully defeated a \$42-a-share offer from Carter Hawley Hale on anti-trust grounds shortly after he became president,

much to the annoyance of some shareholders. Analysts agree that the group is not now worth what it was then.

So what is in it for BAT? Not all analysts agree that the expansion was ill-conceived. Mr John Lanshulz, an analyst with Messrow, a Chicago broker, said the strategy was right "but it should have been followed 10 to 15 years ago". Mr Arena had simply been making up for past mistakes.

The cardinal sin was to allow its dominant fashion retail position in Chicago to be eaten away. The store with its ornate clocks was now in the wrong place. Marshall Field made the right decision in opening a new branch at a more competitive site six years ago, but should have done so long before.

That new store, however, is successful and so is a branch in Houston, even if the rationale for having

outlets so far apart is not apparent.

Mr Stuart Robbins, of brokers Paine Webber, said that the Chicago market would be BAT's key to success. It would need to upgrade Field's sales and buying approach to beat the competition and that would involve much time and effort.

But Field has some very valuable properties throughout the country which could generate cash.

BAT would need to concentrate on the fashion designed clothes end of the market which had brought success to Bloomingdale's and Lord Taylor. Department stores could flourish in the United States, he said, but they needed to be exciting.

Analysts believe that the analysts is there, but BAT will have its work cut out to achieve it.

Nicholas Hirst

Increasing worries over Japan

The Japanese stock market climbed off the floor towards the end of last week after heavy selling had earlier driven it to an 18 month low.

Hardly the kind of performance one expects from a market that has been the darling of international investors, but indicative perhaps of the increasing worries about where Japan goes from here.

Whether those worries are justified is another matter. Certainly, Japan has not escaped the world recession. Exports fell in the final quarter of 1980 and that, combined with lower levels of stockbuilding, brought the growth in total output grinding to a halt.

The recession is not the only concern. Pressures in western Europe and the United States for more

protectionism against Japanese imports continues to grow — however happy the consumer may be to go on buying Japanese goods.

There are, of course, moves to persuade the Japanese to open up their markets to more European and American goods. But even liberalization of trade in such areas as agricultural products is not going to make a great dent in the trade imbalance. The problem is unlikely to get any easier as the Japanese continue to prove that they can stay ahead of most western countries in terms of efficiency and innovation.

From the overseas investors' viewpoint, it is easy to see the cause of anxiety. Western moves to curb Japanese imports are seen as likely to hit the profitability

of some sectors of Japanese industry and possibly the yen itself — not least if there is less Opec money floating around the world looking for a home.

Not all Japanese are quite so worried. Many take heart from the way the economy reacted and adapted to the oil shocks of the seventies far more readily than the western economies. They now see a reasonably stable underlying position.

Moreover, on a short-term view several key economic indicators are pointing towards some revival in the economy. There still seems a reasonable prospect of 3% to 4% per cent growth this year, and any further fall in the oil price would help significantly.

John Whitmore

MARKETROUND-UP

Wall Street checks downturn



The New York stock market stages its strongest rally in three weeks last week. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 8.23 point higher for the week at 805.65. Most of the recovery came on Thursday when the average rose by 9.42 points to 805.27.

Technology stocks, which have recently been depressed, led the rebound. Computer issues, drug, brokerage, defence, transportation, bank, utility, semiconductor and mining stocks shared in the advance although some rose by only a fraction.

The rally helped to reverse the slump that took the Dow average to a 22-month low of 795.85 only last Wednesday. A week ago it fell 9.99 points in the third largest volume of trading in history, 305.4m shares. Two weeks ago, it dropped 17.03 points as 328.8m shares changed hands, the second heaviest trading on record. Last week trading shrank to 243m shares.

Wall Street watches attributed the recovery to the fact that institutions had started to do some buying in order to cover themselves if the market began an extended rise.

But, opinion is sharply divided as to whether stock prices are likely to move up or down in the coming weeks.

Some analysts do not believe that there will be any sustained recovery until late spring or early summer and have been predicting that the Dow average will go as low as 725 or 750 before it ceases to drop.

But at least one investment firm has already forecast a significant upturn in stock prices within 30 days.

FRANKFURT

Springing back



After a week of lacklustre trading, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange sprang to life on Friday pushing the Commerzbank Index to a high for the year of 712.2.

COMMODITIES

Doubts over new coffee agreement

Among the brave defenders of commodity agreements on these times none is chrier than the proponents of the coffee pact. The coffee price has remained solidly above the floor indicator of 120 cents a pound for most of the present financial year (October 1 to September 30 in coffee's case), and the International Coffee Organization has been able to release more beans on to the market. The ICO claims a success.

But is it successful? Today sees the start of what is likely to be a two-week meeting of the ICO executive committee, during which the elaborate process of drawing up the next coffee pact will unfold. Yet I have the uncomfortable feeling that the agreement's members are being lulled into a sense of false security by the present illusory success of the quota mechanism.

There is a widely held view in the market that coffee is being suspended above the ICO floor price not by the genius of the agreement but by the rather more mundane influence of the Brazilian frost. That frost, it will be recalled, by consigning the subject of the pact to the subject of the pact to the subject of the pact.

At the beginning of October 1981 London robusta coffee for November delivery was £1,076 a tonne, not much above the 120 cents a pound floor. At the end of last week March coffee was more than £1,400 a tonne, despite a fairly sustained liquidation by previous buyers closing their positions.

Michael Prest

On the sideline

HONGKONG

By passing 1,200 on Friday for the first time in two weeks off its recent bottom, the Hang Seng Index closed at 1,207, up 10 points on the week, with average daily turnover at HK\$146.6 (£14.2m). Brokers now see a period of consolidation ahead with the market establishing a trading range between 1,250 and 1,100. After showing signs of recovery, they are likely to remain there until clearer signals emerge from Wall Street on the course of United States interest rates.

Cheung Kong was again one of the stronger performers, closing at 16.10. A spate of results from leading property companies, reflecting last year's high values, could help to lift sentiment in the next few weeks. While the downturn in the property market since last summer has now been substantially discounted, disappointing results at a New Territories land auction on Thursday failed to turn market sentiment.

One stockbroker this week saw the prospect of falling oil prices and a Labour victory in the Victoria election as possible bull points for shares.

AUSTRALIA

Oil hopes

Well, it was the view of Phillips and Drew, the London stockbrokers, in its latest world investment review, which offers a useful counterpoint to the prevailing pessimism. Australian investment and business circles.

While the prospect of falls in the world oil price have given local investors in energy stocks the jitters, the brokers say that a fall in prices could provide some brighter economic news for the west... at least for 1983 onwards.

A reduction of \$30 so in world oil price — perhaps a 10 per cent cut — could boost the organisation of petroleum exportation countries to lower the offering price.

For 1982, the OECD countries' GNP is estimated to rise by a sluggish 4 per cent (against almost 1.5 per cent growth in 1981). This could recover to 3 to 3.5 per cent in 1983 — about the average for the last decade.

Spurred on by an encouraging crop of hakey reports and good news on the oil and gas front, in Melbourne share market took on a much healthier tone this week.

CAITAL MARKETS

US tax refunds likely to fuel money supply

From Maxwell Newton, New York, March 21

The money market will take some cheer from the failure of the money supply (M1) to grow in the week to March 10 — but the by fear is the expected surge in money growth during April, America's month of tax refunds.

Until April is out of the way, the markets will remain in a state of fear and this will depress bond and bill prices.

After April, however there could be a long and strong rally in bonds and a pronounced drop in interest rates generally. Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Chairman, has already told President Reagan that rates could drop by up to three percentage points during the summer.

The Fed's seasonal adjustments in the early months of the year are open to doubt. Mr Peter Canelo, the respected capital market analyst at Merrill Lynch, calculates the Fed's adjustments make the money supply growth in the early months of the year look too high and in the later months too low. After April the downside will tend to depress the money supply figure as published.

Another bull point for bonds after April will be the decline in credit demand. During 1981, the total banks' commercial and industrial loans and commercial paper outstanding has levelled off since mid-February. The seasonally adjusted total of these two measures of short-term credit rose from \$168,000m in April 1981 through \$360,000m in October-December, to peak at about \$365,000m in mid-February.

A cessation of growth in this measure has been long awaited as an indicator that the voracious appetite for American corporations for short-term loans had abated. Such an abatement would have been expected to follow the decline of "real" GNP by 4.5 per cent a year in the fourth quarter of 1981, followed by another decline on top of that of 4.5 per cent a year in the first quarter of 1982. The decline in the first quarter "flash" GNP report from the Commerce Department.

The failure of outstanding short-term credit even to level out until the last three or four weeks is attributed to the grave problems American corporations have had in reducing inventories despite sharp cuts in production. Another factor that has added to the fear in the money markets is the evidence that the short-term credit boom provided of underlying extreme cash problems among American corporations.

Europe prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	Yield	CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Conv. Price	Yield
Toronto Dominion Bank	100%	1.54	AT&T Standard 9/8	99%	4.28
First Nat. City 10% 1985	99	1.54	AT&T Standard 9/8	99%	4.28
First Nat. City 10% 1985	99	1.54	AT&T Standard 9/8	99%	4.28
First Nat. City 10% 1985	99	1.54	AT&T Standard 9/8	99%	4.28
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INTER-CITY
PEOPLE

CARDIFF
In a class
of his own

"A" for effort for Fanthorpe, L., who besides being headmaster of a Cardiff comprehensive school, Glyn Derw, is also something of a publishing phenomenon.

Fanthorpe, 47, writes not textbooks but science fiction, and in Mike Ashley's forthcoming *Science Fiction Book of Facts* is down as the fastest and most prolific practitioner there is.

He began writing for SF pulp magazines when he was 17, has since published over 175 books. One was written in 11 hours.

Most are paperbacks written for Badger Books for



Fanthorpe the phenomenal

which the author retains the rights.

With his wife Patricia, he runs a bookshop in Cardiff specializing in SF and fantasy, and he is a director of the city's firm of specialist SF and fantasy publishers, Glyn Derw.

They are publishing an SF trilogy for him, the first volume of which, *Black Lion*, is already out. But Fanthorpe tells me the firm is not handling his latest, a blockbuster non-fiction work, written in collaboration with his wife and called *The Mysterious Treasure of Rennes-le-Chateau*.

This is an answer to Baigent, Lincoln and Leigh's *The Holy Blood & The Holy Grail*, and argues that the mysterious holy relic is in fact the body of Jesus, buried in the tomb of the Holy Grail. Fanthorpe is a member of the Hapsburg Brotherhood of Hapsburg sympathizers in Austria.

Audrey Matheson, who is the in-house foreign languages tutor for the Worcester engineering group Redman Heenan International, finds her pupils getting younger all the time. She is now teaching not only Redman's own midwives but boys from nearby Malvern College, who are coming for conversation classes, under a cooperation between Martin Rogers, the headmaster of Malvern — who wants children to understand business — and Redman Group, chief executive John Owen, who is also a governor of Malvern School.

FALMOUTH
Tall story

The Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race returns to British waters in July, bringing with it for John Hamilton and Christopher Green the prospect of an intriguing international confrontation.

Hamilton is the race director of the Sail Training Association, and Green a director of the race's sponsors, Cutty Sark.

On Sunday, July 25, over 80 sail training vessels are due to set sail from Falmouth to Lisbon — among them the Polish merchant navy's new square-rigger, *Dar Modrzy*, and the USSR's fisheries board barque, *Kruszchak*.

When the ships reach Lisbon on August 3, Hamilton tells me, there is a "crew interchange" in which masters establish which of their crew would like to complete the final leg to Vigo and back to Southampton aboard a ship of another nationality.

Would any attempt be made to keep Russians and Poles apart? I asked. "No way," says Hamilton. "The whole point of the race is to integrate youngsters of different nations."

Ross Davies

It looks as if the unemployed are getting on their feet, as the Employment Secretary, Norman Tebbit recommends, not necessarily to look for work. Social authorities in North Wales are pondering reason behind a sudden increase in school registrations of English-speaking children. They suspect English people on the dole are choosing to sit out the recession in beautiful but jobless North Wales rather than in the industrial but equally jobless north-west and north-east of England.

NEW
APPOINTMENTS

Sir Maurice Hodgson has been appointed a director of British Home Stores with effect from April 1.

Mr George Gosszior, Mr Philip Gooding, Mr Leslie Goodman and Mr Donald Rushman have been appointed to the board of Hill Samuel & Co. with effect from April 1.

Richard Normey has been appointed a non-executive director of Cadbury Schweppes.

Mr A. J. Brook has been appointed a director of Boddingtons Breweries.

SATELLITE BROADCASTS

Initially two channels devoted to satellite programmes transmitted by the BBC-Space available on the cable system for another 3 satellite channels.

CONSUMER SERVICES

Using the interactive facility on the network, 'teleshopping' and even 'telesharing' could become commonplace.

EDUCATION

2+2=4
Using the interactive two-way facility of the cable system, the television becomes an extremely useful teaching aid.

ENTERTAINMENT

Another 15 channels to entertainment programmes, specialist channels devoted to sport, children's programmes and ethnic broadcasts.

An extensive cable television network will be recommended by a Government advisory panel report published today. Bill Johnstone explains the implications.

The cable network
that would link
up with your life

The face of broadcasting could change completely within the next two years if the Government accepts the recommendation of the Cabinet Information Technology Advisory Panel, that Britain should have a cable television system of at least 30 channels.

The restrictions on television programming and broadcasting which have managed to contain the number of television channels to a mere three in nearly 30 years of broadcasting would go.

The report, to be published later today, was compiled by experts from industry, the city and the academic world. It suggests 20 entertainment channels and a further 10 for consumer services. In theory they could be operated 24 hours a day.

The first four would be devoted to the normal television broadcasting channels (BBC1 & 2, ITV and Channel 4). In addition there would be one other TV channel to carry programmes from one ITV region to another, two BBC direct satellite broadcasting channels and three other satellite channels yet to be assigned.

Other channels might be devoted to children's entertainment, arts, education, sport, subtitled programming for broadcasting foreign language material or to assist those viewers who are hard of hearing, films, local/national political coverage, a television version of yellow pages and special ethnic channels possibly for West Indian or Asian viewers. Separate channels could also be used to secure premises against fire or burglar by wiring the home to the local fire brigade or police station.

What is being recommended is not purely an entertainment system but a consumer telecommunications system which would provide services for the subscriber, like armchair shopping.

"We consider the long-term potential of cable systems for providing new sorts of services to be much more important, but have to accept that cable systems will go through an initial phase when their attraction will be based on entertainment considerations," says the report.

The time scale would depend on government approval and industry's response. Cable — about £3,000 worth — will need to be manufactured and a lot of expensive hardware built. But the first part of the network, the report to the cabinet suggests, could be operational within 18 months.

The proposed new cable television system would be made up of a number of local networks. The idea of the systems is to encourage as much local input as possible. The entire range of programming on the system could be offered to the subscriber for between £5 and £10 a month.

If a system similar to the types running in north America were adopted a number of channels, probably half of the complete channel range, would be provided for a standard subscription. Additional channels, probably films, and some specialist programming would be paid for either by subscription or by paying separately for each programme viewed.

The mechanics of the system are fairly straightforward. A local network would be set up with cable running into every street in the district. Optical fibre cable would probably be used for this section since it has a capacity to carry large volumes of information. Each subscriber would then be connected by another cable to the main network.

The cabinet advisers estimate that each home in a town with a population of about 100,000 could be wired at a cost of between £200-£300.

The electronics in the home required to receive the signals from the cable would cost in the region of £80.

The advisory panel sought the views of 21 organizations, among them British Telecom, BICC, the BBC, the Electricity Council, the National Economic Development Office, the Open University, Thomas Cook, Debenhams, Ladbroke's, Logica, Tesco and Thomson Regional Newspapers.

The report says: "Our investigations have revealed considerable interest in private firms (not only from established cable companies) in the possibility of participating in the cable systems, and we have no doubt that funds would be available from commercial sources to finance the installation of cable systems."

The cable systems would generate substantial business for the British electronic and cable manufacturing industries. The total investment could be in the region of £1,000m a year for the next ten years. The cable cost for wiring 50 per cent of the UK is between £2,000-£3,000m.

If the decision was taken to wire about 70 per cent of British homes to the new cable system the cable costs would rise to £5,000m.

The report is intended to encourage British business interests, and the system recommended may exclude the use of American technology which is built to meet different technical standards.

British Telecom is already advanced in fibre optic cabling technology — the use of thin glass fibres the width of a human hair to carry the amount of data contained in 2,000 simultaneous telephone calls. British cable companies like BICC and STC would also be involved.

Film makers and those companies which own the copyright to programming

material — the BBC and Thom-EMI, for example could make a lot of money.

Thom-EMI owns the copyright to a substantial catalogue of films which are already available or will soon be available on video. These same films could be made available on cable. The BBC has a large archive of copyright material suitable for transmission on the cable systems. The extra money generated by such secondary income could lessen the pressure on the corporation to seek licence fee increases.

The cable system recommended would be interactive (two way) allowing the viewer to respond to what is appearing on the screen. This facility would allow retail stores to develop 'teleshopping'. Tesco, which contributed to the cable report, is already running a 'teleshopping' experiment in Gateshead. It has set up terminals at remote sites from the Tesco stores on which customers can order groceries for delivery.

A similar approach is expected to be taken by travel agents who will allow travellers to book tickets and holidays direct from their armchair. Race meetings and possibly even 'teleshopping' might be available on the system, provided by race course owners or bookmakers.

Companies which rely on television advertising may find another vehicle for selling their products. British viewers might be able to watch regularly sponsored programmes, at present not allowed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The report says: "Additional income could come from advertising and perhaps sponsorship."

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Ministry officials say that the February comparison is misleading, in that the second half of last year there was a deteriorating trend in output that has simply been continuing and indeed showed a slight improvement in February compared to January 1982. The drop has not been caused by martial law, they say.

This however is disingenuous: Polish industry is in serious trouble, hit by the dual evil of raw material shortages due to the absence of Western credits and stagnating labour productivity.

The problem with this assistance from the Soviet Union and other East European countries is that it is helping to distort the Polish economy and above all is undermining the cause of economic decentralisation, still technically viewed as the way out of the crisis. The short term solution to the crisis, Polish planners seem to believe, is to concentrate on priority areas — mainly shipbuilding, engineering, tractor construction, aviation, cars, electronics and steel.

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the Soviet Union this year, says Mr Karz, despite Western press reports to the contrary. Moscow lent \$465m and rescheduled \$1bn of an earlier hard currency loan. Poland of course in trade deficit with the Soviet Union — a 1.6bn transferable roubles in 1981 and a similar gap, or "a bit higher", is expected this year, says Mr Karz.

But 70 per cent of Poland's imports from the Soviet Union are raw materials which then help Polish industry to export to hard currency countries. "Under these circumstances, the deficit with the Soviet Union is not so important. I would say it is better, if one has a choice, to get a million tonnes of oil for transferable roubles, than to spend say \$200m buying in Arab oil. That is more interesting for us — and for Western countries too."

The message in the Polish Finance Ministry is that there is a short cut — via Moscow — out of Poland's debt problems, but the Soviet Union and other East European countries can and will ensure that industrial production gets back on course.

Poles still plan on long-term Western help

INTERNATIONAL
OUTLOOK:
POLAND'S DEBT

By Roger Boyes

Warsaw — Poland's corridors of financial power should perhaps be fitted with revolving doors to cope with the Soviet conings and Western goings out. Two weeks ago the three-member team from the International Monetary Fund in this week came Soviet advisers to discuss industrial assistance.

Mr Zbigniew Karz, head of the International Department in the Polish Finance Ministry and one of the few remaining optimists on Poland's debt, says that the IMF team went away broadly satisfied on a number of points. "We could show them that our general aims, outlined to the IMF last year, remain fundamentally the same."

Indeed martial law has changed at least two economic features positively. "Economic reform is going ahead full steam and in fact reform of retail prices has moved much further ahead than anticipated last year."

Decoded, that means martial law enabled the Government to push up prices three and fourfold without the danger of widespread popular opposition. Secondly, "the extraction of raw materials is at a much higher level than last year."

Decoded, that means that miners are now having to work six days a week.

Although Poland is still interested in IMF membership, it does not hold out any great hope of a miracle cure. Rather its strategy is to use Western banks — whose will to see a Polish economic recovery is undeniable — to put pressure on reschedule 1982 government debt.

In previous years, Poland used Western governments such as Bonn to pressure



Martial law and the economy: military authorities monitor production at the Fiat Polski car factory in Warsaw

banks into lending to Warsaw to maintain political stability, now it is doing the reverse to ensure economic stability.

The interest payments for 1981 have now been paid off, Finance Ministry officials say, and a rescheduling of 1981's bank debt of \$2.4bn (£1.3bn) will be agreed at the beginning of next month. An agreement then has to be reached on rescheduling bank debt just over \$2.4bn for 1982 and the \$2.2bn owed to Western governments.

"We need the West of course," says Mr Karz, and the figures certainly seem to support the contention. But with a crushing inevitability, Warsaw is turning to the Soviet Union as a makeshift economic saviour. This has been loudly fanfared over the past two months, partly as a matter of ideology but partly also as a way of signalling to the United States that economic pressure on a loyal Soviet ally will simply make a Warsaw Poland, scared that it will be declared in default, knows that the Soviet Union would only be of limited assistance in such a case. "It would be

naive to continue believing in the Soviet umbrella theory," says Mr Karz, but that in the absence of any short-term solution to its industrial problems, deeper Soviet-Polish co-operation is the only way out.

There is thus no radical rejection of the West or indeed of Western imports, only a short brief tactical recognition that big brothers can make fraternal gestures.

It becomes clear that Polish-Soviet co-operation is important to Warsaw because it is the only feature of the economic situation which can be predicted with any certainty. "Look, these are the uncertainties: we don't know what the West will do. What will happen to the refinancing of commercial debt, we don't know what will happen to new commodity credits. There is uncertainty in the economy, we don't know how market conditions, we don't know how the agricultural situation, the food supply situation will develop."

By contrast the Soviet Union provides a measure of stability. "There have been no hard currency loans from

the Soviet Union this year, says Mr Karz, despite Western press reports to the contrary. Moscow lent \$465m and rescheduled \$1bn of an earlier hard currency loan. Poland of course in trade deficit with the Soviet Union — a 1.6bn transferable roubles in 1981 and a similar gap, or "a bit higher", is expected this year, says Mr Karz.

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Business Editor

French expansion
threatens EMS

It may have taken elections to focus the attention of the foreign exchange markets on the deficiencies of the franc. But the actual outcome of Sunday's second round of local government polls is unlikely to have more than a temporary impact on the currency's sagging fortunes.

The fact is that investors, having taken a good look at the French economy, are increasingly alarmed at what they see as a burgeoning state budget deficit which this year may rise to five times its 1980 pre-Mitterrand level; a persistently high inflation rate, presently around 14 per cent, which shows little sign of easing; and a growing balance of trade deficit.

Strains within the European Monetary System were inevitable once France decided to go its own way and pursue an expansionary course in the face of the restrictive policies adopted by other members. Indeed, the French risk precipitating possible collapse of the system.

Though the EMS may not have succeeded in securing greater convergence of members' economies this

per cent is thought necessary by some analysts. But so long as the French are pursuing different policies from everybody else no one believes that the next devaluation, when it comes, will be the end of the story. Unless France changes its policies, or pulls out of the EMS as some have advocated, the EMS has a rocky road ahead.

Banks

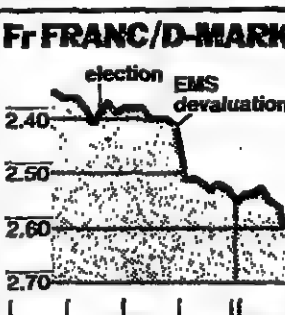
Tax fears

Midland Bank rounded off the dividend season last week with only unchanged profits but this still left aggregate profits for the big four up by 15 per cent to a record £1,673m. This year profits are expected to be higher still with City stockbrokers W. Greenwell, for instance, forecasting an overall rise to more than £2,000m.

Much of the 1981 rise has come from international operations. Most of the increase at Barclays from £524m to £567m pretax came from Barclays International, National Westminster's international division and also proved an odd-man-out: employee reductions helped towards the smallest rise in domestic staff costs of all the banks allowing the clearing bank to show an improvement from a poor result the previous year. However Midland's international side was held at unchanged profits because of higher bad debt provisions.

Although the profit outlook is good for 1982, the big uncertainty is just how the banks will manage to carry out his Budget threat of ensuring a reasonable tax take from the banks. The banks pay very little United Kingdom tax although they argue strongly that industry gets much of its benefit through the cheap leasing finance they provide.

After what appears to have been a relatively low level of interest in last week's offering of Government index-linked stock, what happens next? The market had driven down the yield on the existing stocks to below 3 per cent, an stage on the assumption that the opening up of the market to all comers would produce a significant response. But now that response has not materialized, the market will have to find a new level. Private investors who have not yet tucked a little of the stock away in their portfolios, can probably afford to wait and see what happens over the next few weeks. How the authorities will play their hand, having said they will not supply the 1982 stock below £97.50, is a different matter. It looks very much as if its next offering will have to be rather more conventional.



remains the system's central objective and gives it its logic and coherence. With that objective the EMS becomes a thing of threads and patches which could blow apart when the next storm hits. And the storm could be only weeks away for all the details of devaluation from French ministers last week.

Even outside the EMS, though, the franc could be in persistent trouble. Things are not working out as the Government hoped and planned. The budget deficit for 1982 of 95,000 francs (£8,500m), equivalent to about 2 1/2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, is expected to be upset by unplanned extra public spending and slower than expected economic growth, which will dampen revenues.

The likely deficit is being put at anything between 120,000m francs and 150,000m francs, equivalent to 3 to 5 per cent of GDP, of broadcasting is contained in three different acts of parliament (The Wireless and Telegraphy Act 1949, the Post Office Act 1969 and the British Telecommunications Act of 1981) and the authority is divided between the Home Office and the Department of Industry.

But a regulatory body will be necessary since the legislation which covers this type of production has not been passed. The drop has not been caused by martial law, they say.

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The trade deficit, too, remains stubbornly intractable as relatively rapid inflation and an overvalued exchange rate has hurt the competitiveness of French products. A devaluation within the EMS of around 8

LEGAL NOTICES

RE: ADDTECH AIR CONDITIONING LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and the Companies Act, 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable them to be included in the list of creditors to be sent to the Court.

Dated this 10th March, 1982.
J. BUCHLER, Chartered Accountant.

RE: EUROTECH (MECHANICAL SERVICES) LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and the Companies Act, 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable them to be included in the list of creditors to be sent to the Court.

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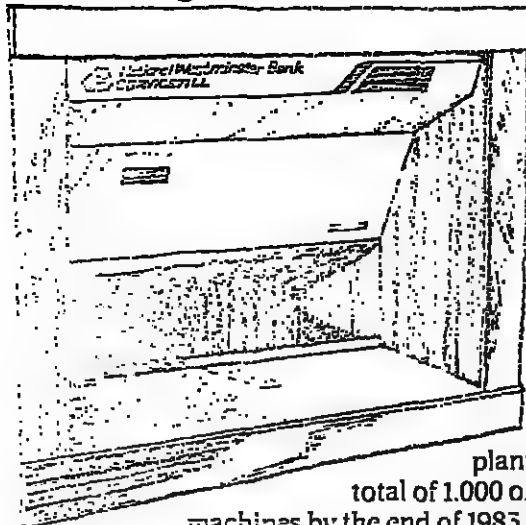
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RE: BARNET & LONGMORE (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS) LIMITED (In Voluntary Liquidation) and the Companies Act, 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable them to be included in the list of creditors to be sent to the Court.

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A world's eye view from NatWest

Extending our service to customers



In the increasingly competitive environment in 1982 we will continue to concentrate all our efforts into providing a first-class service to our customers, recognising their special and often individual needs. We now have well over 500 Servicetills operating on a 24-hour basis throughout the U.K., dispensing over £40m each month, already the largest network of its type in Europe. It is planned to have a total of 1,000 of these machines by the end of 1983. Towards the end of this year we plan to introduce a new quick-action customer-operated cash dispensing machine sited inside branches.

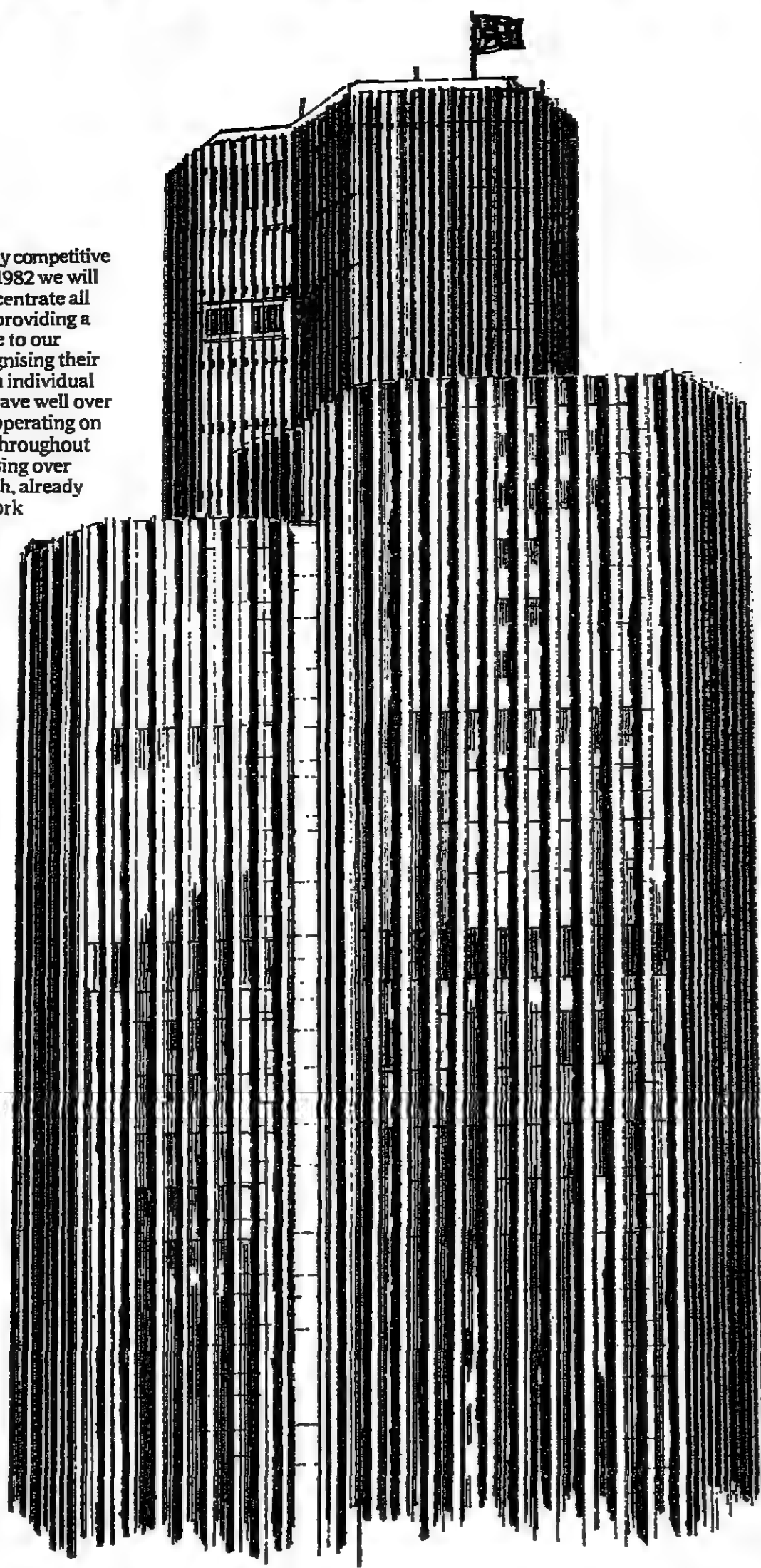
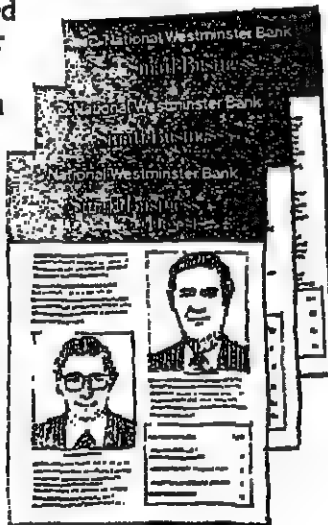
The NatWest Mortgage Service



National Westminster Home Loans now provides a valued and convenient source of mortgage finance. The rapid success of our scheme shows there is substantial demand for this form of personal financial service from the banks and it is right that we should compete with the building societies on an appropriate scale.

NatWest and Small Businesses

We have continued our policy of support for small businesses and have again held down interest rates on Business Development Loans whilst raising the upper limit for this facility to £250,000 to meet the needs of our customers. We completed during 1981, for instance, our 50,000th loan under our Business Development Loan Scheme and an increase of over 40% in lending to a total of £489m indicates the value and flexibility, as well as the competitiveness, of this kind of facility. We are also lending under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme and our interest terms are the cheapest of the four major clearing banks.



A Royal Opening for the National Westminster Tower

The cover of our Annual Report shows the Royal Standard flying over the National Westminster Tower on 11 June 1981. This was truly a memorable occasion when we were honoured by a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to declare the Tower formally open.

NatWest Bank Trophy

1981 saw the introduction of the competition for the National Westminster Bank Trophy. After a series of exciting matches, the Trophy was won by Derbyshire - literally on the last ball - when they defeated Northants in a closely contested Final at Lord's.



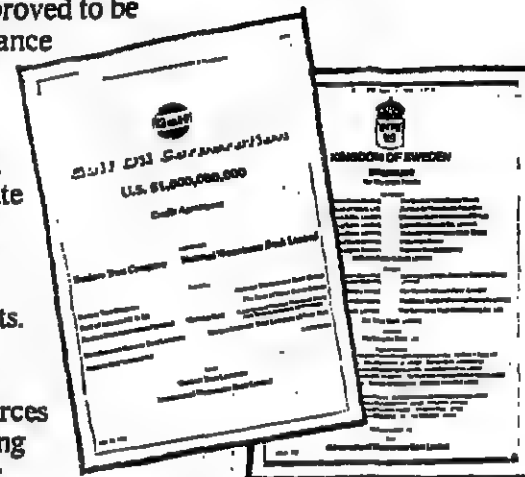
Our international presence

We see the Far East as offering major growth potential and in August an offshore executive office was opened in Singapore with a catchment area extending from China to Australasia and including Burma and the ASEAN countries. Our Canadian subsidiary applied for chartered status, now granted, and under its new name - National Westminster Bank of Canada, with an office opened in Montreal - we look to a material expansion of our business in that country to complement our substantial representation in the United States. In Germany, the activities of International Westminster Bank based in Frankfurt have been merged with our subsidiary Global Bank AG with effect from 4 January 1982 to form a new wholly-owned Group subsidiary called Deutsche Westminster Bank AG.



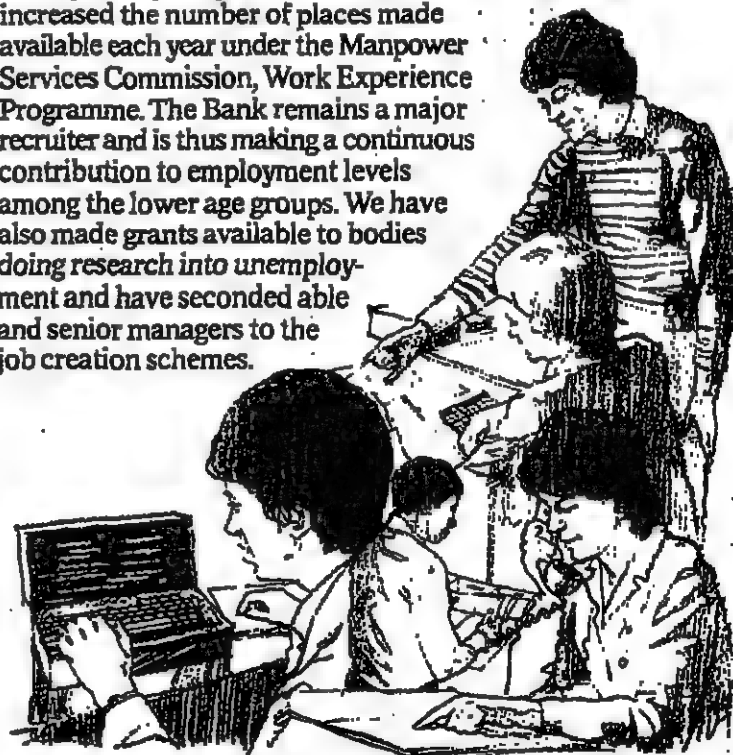
Corporate Finance

Our experience has proved to be of the utmost importance in meeting the sophisticated requirements of our corporate customers. We continue to operate in a very competitive environment, none more so than in the Eurocurrency markets. The need to make judicious use of the world's natural resources has meant a continuing involvement in major projects, particularly in the energy and related industries.



Youth opportunities with NatWest

Unemployment remains a pressing problem, especially amongst the young, and in recognising this we have increased the number of places made available each year under the Manpower Services Commission, Work Experience Programme. The Bank remains a major recruiter and is thus making a continuous contribution to employment levels among the lower age groups. We have also made grants available to bodies doing research into unemployment and have seconded able and senior managers to the job creation schemes.



Comments from the Chairman - Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton

The improved profit is attributable to increased volumes of business handled by a marginally smaller number of staff using increasingly sophisticated electronic equipment. It is a very satisfactory performance particularly having in mind the 3% reduction in the average base rate in the UK and shows that our profits are little influenced by fortuitous circumstances outside our control.

The world economy during 1981 was very subdued, with low growth and rising unemployment in most countries. Governments in general were unable to adopt expansionary policies, because inflation remained high and payments imbalances were still very large. 1981 will be remembered as a frustrating year for the British economy and it has become apparent that the high inflation of past years is deeply embedded leaving British industry more seriously uncompetitive than remedial measures over the past two years have been able to correct. Government measures which are designed to reduce the cost burden on industry and to enable it to be more competitive are most likely to stimulate economic activity without introducing inflationary pressure. We therefore think it right to support the Government's broad monetary strategy; for us as a bank it has been a matter of judicious

Financial Highlights 1981

Ordinary share capital	£237 million
Reserves	£1,969 million
Money lodged	£39,709 million
Money lent	£31,791 million
Group pre-tax profit	£494 million
Retained profit	£273 million

Copies of the Report and Accounts, which include the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary's Office, National Westminster Bank PLC, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

balance to ensure that at the same time we were not insensitive to the needs of our customers.

Our international banking policy remains appropriate to the difficult and highly competitive world scene, and we continue to seek good opportunities for growth of our existing business and expansion of our representation. We remain confident that our overseas loan portfolio is carefully balanced and distributed, and we shall continue to observe those principles of policy which we believe will contain our risks to acceptable levels. In the United States there is some prospect of recovery in the latter part of 1982 which should help to stimulate the economies of the industrialised countries in Europe.

I should say something by way of explanation of a policy of allowing loans for personal consumption to rise at a time when the demand from manufacturing and exporting customers remains below the level of available bank credit. Most personal loans are structured to be of short duration and repayment terms in our experience are scrupulously observed. We feel satisfied, therefore, in extending to that category of customer which contributes so much to our deposit base, a service which will not conflict with a commitment to provide adequate funds for manufacturing and exporting customers when the economy expands and the need arises.

NatWest Bank Group

One of the world's leading banks

مركز العمل

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, March 15. Dealings End, March 26, § Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in Issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

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THE DEVELOPER,
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Before you get to build a multi-million pound office block in the City, you first have to get to the site.

Which means not just negotiating narrow mediaeval courts, and alleyways built for Elizabethan dray horses.

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Wates Construction Limited have had considerable experience overcoming such problems over the many years we've been building in the City (and other cities in Britain).

At Audrey House, a new office block at Ely Place in Holborn, we had to hoist some of the building materials by crane over the top of an ornate Edwardian facade.

(And without damaging the ancient church next door.)

Others we had to take through a specially cut hole in the facade.

At Milk Street, where we developed an office block, the site was so cramped, the only answer to delivery problems was to build a heavily reinforced concrete foundation to accommodate a turntable within the building itself.

Probably our most difficult job in terms of access has been the Bank of New South Wales building alongside Cannon Street Station.

The only access to the rear of the building was via a 9' wide road through which all materials had to be transported.

Really big plant had to be handled at weekends by closing Walbrook altogether. All other materials had to be manhandled.

In addition, we had to go to considerable lengths to protect the vast numbers of commuters who use Cannon Street Station every day. For example, we had to build overhead protective walkways alongside the site.

One last little problem: at ground floor level, a public house had to remain in continuous trading throughout the contract, despite having to pass ducting through part of the premises.

Naturally, Wates took great care to make sure they did!

It's this experience of all the little testing problems that building in the City presents, that has meant Wates being chosen for so many important construction projects.

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هكذا آمن الأهل

SPORT

How Wales were put to the claymore

By David Hands

Wales.....34
Scotland.....18

Wales, who lived so successfully by the sword during their golden days of the seventies, perished by the sword on Saturday. The sparkling cutting edge of some of the world's best back was, but a memory, at Cardiff. Renwick and Johnston forced the Welsh defence time and again in helping record the finest total by an opposing XV at Cardiff and depriving Wales of their cherished international championship ground record which has stood since 1968.

The inadequacies of the Welsh backs have been apparent all season and Scotland rammed the lesson home, while Wales return to the basics, to be fed to them with the wooden spoon which they now hold jointly with France. Scotland can glow with pride after victory by four goals, try and two dropped goals against a goal and four penalties.

Success which included the try of this and many other championships. The Welsh, in contrast, could do nothing right behind the scrum. They dominated the lineout, the new cap Norrie doing well, they were managed better and the flankers, Burgess and Lewis, were outstanding in setting up second-phase play. Richard Thomas indeed looked like Gareth Davies looked like a realist fighting his way out of some Walter Mitty world in which Welsh backs once ruled the world.

In their first move Wales attempted a switch which came to

grief and it swiftly became apparent that Renwick and Johnston were imposing such midfield pressure that the practical thing was for Davies to use the touchline and then attack the Scottish goal line close to his forwards. In the end Wales tried to do that and to run the ball; in doing the latter they assisted Scotland to three of their five tries and it was to the infinite credit of the Welsh crowd that they gave generous applause to the running of the visiting backs.

Critically, the Welsh defence close to the scrum was exposed, as Ireland and, to a lesser extent, England, had done earlier in the season. Top often the first tackle was ineffective and the driving force of Calder and Dickson in particular opened the door to further scores. Dickson came on in the first quarter after Paxton had damaged knee ligaments in a tackle from Rees in the build-up to Calder's try and the ginger-haired Gale forward played what Irvine described as his best game in a Scottish jersey.

There was no hint of what was to follow when Scotland's first penalty, Wales had established territorial domination and held it throughout the match; Scotland conceded two penalties, particularly from lineouts, and did so throughout the match. But nothing, not even the National Stadium first, male streaker, could put them off the game.

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Ireland able to defeat with

By Peter West, Rugby

France.....22
Ireland.....9

It was clear at Parc des Princes on Saturday that the four weeks since their heavy victory over Scotland had been long enough for the Irish to go off the boil. Moreover, without Duggan, who was badly needed to help muzzle the formidable Joliet, they had the misfortune to meet the best French side of the championship, a national selection containing seven of the forwards that shared the grand slam last season.

The performance of these forwards at the set pieces was supported by a near-immaculate effort at half-back, notably by Lescarboura at stand-off. The result was never in doubt from the moment when Ireland, who were trailing 6-7 in the third quarter of the game, threw away what should have been a certain try.

By their emphatic victory — a goal, four penalty goals and a try to three penalties — France ended a sequence of seven losses against countries of the lower division. The presence of Paparemborde and Dospital in the front row, and of Imbernon with Revalier in the engine room, ensured a solid scrumgame pace.

France's second half was a French player of their season, was immense at the lineout and in the loose, and one wondered why Ireland in the early stages so busily threw long in a direction, and Duggan was missed in more ways than one.

In the second quarter, Campbell kicked his first, converted a goal, and then, with a superb exploit the late tackle laws to their limits, was penalised for kicking in the scrum. Then Imbernon was apprehended for stamping at a ruck, and Campbell put Ireland in front, for the only time.

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Final try: Johnston caught in the act of running Wales into the ground

two men outside him, chipped ahead into Scotland's 22 and Baird's catch and sprint took him teetering down the touchline and up to halfway. Paxton, legs pumping, took up the running, then James and finally Calder for a magnificent score.

Then it was Renwick, who has scored a try on each of his last two visits to Cardiff. He dropped a fine goal on the run then accepted Calder's pass to scamper 50 metres for a try at the penalties. By Evans restored sanity and a half-time score of

13-9 kept Wales firmly in the hunt. A dropped ball by the Welsh midfield was the prelude to the third try, the Scottish backs sweeping through and giving Pollock a try on his debut. Irvine converted as he did twice more when White drove over from a five-metre scrum and Johnston, scything through, scored the fifth. Rutherford dropped a goal to complete a fine record of scoring in all championship games this season, leaving Wales looking for a conversion and penalty by Evans.

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Paparemborde, the French hooker, passes the ball to scrum-half Berbizier after winning the maul

Gaytonians find the gulf too much to bridge

By Peter Marson

Old Gaytonians.....9
Wasps.....25

Save for one or two isolated moments when the magnitude of the occasion corrupted better judgment, Old Gaytonians were formed creditably in the Middlesex cup final on Old Merchant Tylors ground at Croydon Green, yesterday.

Yet there was little that was unfamiliar to the embroidery on this lopsided pattern, with the bigger fish allowing the small fry to manoeuvre. Thus Wasps won stylishly and with a flourish at the end by two goals, a try and three penalty goals to three penalties.

Those six penalties shared by Stringer (2) Hughes and Yarrow (2) stood against another seven failures by Stringer and Yarrow and a gainst a grand total of 33 penalties and a sprinkling of free kicks. In the circumstances, Russell had no option but to make his awards ill in the way he did, but a constant stream of offside and scrum penalties in rhythm and a staccato performance was the result.

On a pitch heavy with moisture and strewn with sand the kickers did tolerably well with Stringer, aided by two conversions, win-

ning his battle with Yarrow by a single point.

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Hawick come closer to a coveted double

By Iain Mackenzie

Hawick.....33
Langholm.....9

Hawick, the most successful post-war club in Scotland, are almost back where they belong. Just over a week ago they regained the national title with a win over Watsonians and on Saturday they came close to completing the "double" by winning the Border League.

Hawick won by three goals, three tries and a penalty goal to a goal and a penalty, but it was not that easy. It now remains to be seen if Gala, the present Border League champions, who have relinquished their national title will give away their Border one too.

It seems likely that they will. Hawick's new captain, John Smith, has a reputation for being a tough and determined player, and unless the old champions pull something out, they seem destined to lose that title as well.

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French too subtle for industrious England

BY Gordon Allan

England Youth.....13
France Youth.....16

Matches between the England Colts and France Youth teams began in 1977. England have yet to win. The last time they lost the series, at Portsmouth on Saturday, by a goal, a try, a dropped goal and a penalty goal to a dropped goal.

There was no doubt in the early part of the game as to who were the better team, there was none by the end. For solidarity and industry, you could not fault England. For subtlety and vision, you had to hand it to the French. Their forward, with Arthapnet conspicuous at No. 8, made up in ball-winning ability at the rucks what they lacked in power in the line, and their backs turned half chances into real ones with light-fingered improvisation.

The England backs were shadowed by comparison. Increasingly, they tried to do too much on their own instead of supporting each other, like the French. Resourceful tackling snuffed them out. Jernym, stand-off kicked well. Heslop showed determination, and Wales, apart from missing two short-range penalties, had a good match.

Jernym dropped a goal to put England ahead. Gedy scored the first French try when Lescure came into the line and Curthick took the ball to the corner before flicking it aside with a pass late enough to be called an afterthought.

In the second half, Lescure kicked a penalty, converted a try by Silva, and dropped a goal. Silva's try proved how dangerous the French were in counter-attack and how uncertain the England defence sometimes was against the unorthodox.

It was a pleasant match, the sun shone, the flags fluttered, and the Royal Marines band played and marched. It was a pleasant match, with scarcely one premeditated crash ball to remind us of routine. The French hinted at why, on their day, they are the best rugby players in the world.

We shall hear more of Lescure, Bonnaville, Silva, Arthapnet, and yet another Camberber, the son of Gedy, a French stand-off 14 years ago. On the English side, watch out for Wales, Jernym, Keast (a 17st 4lb farmer), Pratt, and John Ingram, whose try David, was among the replacements. Watch out also for what happens at Aberavon on April 3, when England play Wales.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Leaders win to keep race for title close

By Keith Macklin

The battle for the first division championship, sponsored by Slalom Lager, remains at tight and gripping as ever. The three leading clubs Widnes, Leigh and Hull all won at home yesterday, and the tense closeness of the championship struggle was accurately shown in the Widnes game against Hull Kingston Rovers.

After a fiercely fought game, for which the Rovers' players were reputedly on a bonus of £200 a man, Widnes won through by a solitary first-half penalty goal from John Myler. This defeat probably ended Rovers' hopes of winning the championship, although they can still finish in the top four.

Leigh also had to struggle before beating Barrow 17-7. Leigh ran away with the game in the opening quarter and some excellent rugby brought tries from Cooke and Hogan, with two goals from Myler. However, once the initial Leigh momentum ran out of steam Barrow came strongly back into the game. A try by Silverside and a penalty goal from Myler brought Barrow back to 10-7. Leigh were greatly relieved when Donlan dropped a late goal to clinch victory.

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bottom club Whitehaven 35-0, and the Humberston club are, like Widnes, on course for the cup and league double.

Perhaps the most outstanding and astounding win of the day was Bradford Northern's victory by 24-0 at Warrington, where few sides are allowed to run riot. This win improves Northern's chances of making the top-eight playoff, and raises the hopes of Warrington. Wigan who beat Castleford, and Leeds who beat Featherstone after trailing at half time, improved their top eight prospects.

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Oxford pay for making a mess of the last hole

By Nicholas Keith

The 18th hole at Histon was the undoing of Oxford on Saturday when they lost 8-7 to Cambridge in the tightest match between the universities since 1962 on the same course.

Cambridge's slender margin reflected the excitement which had gripped spectators and players alike on two bitterly cold days. At least the wind and rain held back, apart from some squally showers on the first afternoon.

Oxford held a 3-2 lead after the first four holes, but needed only to share the singles to win. They were in this position at lunch on Saturday but the match turned in Cambridge's favour with victories on the last green by Robert Randall and Rob Tickle.

Beside the powerful, muscular Randall, Oxford's Chris Ramsey looked frail and delicate, but his sterling efforts over two days belied his appearance. Ramsey was two up after 31 holes but Randall finished in 3, 4, 3, 4, 4, (one under par).

Ramsey twice matched searing blows by Randall: a drive to the short 18th and a second shot to the 17th both in the afternoon; but he fluffed a relatively simple approach down wind to the 18th and Randall's solid four was good enough.

Waitses is hunted all the way home

From a Special Correspondent, Mufurira, March 20

Brian Waitses, the grey club professional at Histon, near Nottingham, came from behind with a fine closing round of 68, five under par, to win the 18-hole Open Cup on Saturday.

Waitses, who celebrated his forty-second birthday recently, went into the final round on the beautiful tree-lined Mufurira course two strokes behind Michael Foxon, the former British Walker Cup player, but immediately assumed command by scoring birdies at each of the first three holes.

That put him into a lead he never relinquished although the gallant and less experienced Foxon hunted him all the way

A measure of Randall's hitting was that he reached the 47-yard 25th with a drive and a five iron; he was on in two with an eight iron from the rough at the 17th and he needed only a wedge to hit the last green in two shots.

In the fifth match, Oxford's Brian Liversy raised a storm by hitting off Earl Morrid in 27 holes. This equaled the record of seven wins in eight matches held by W. R. (Romney) Alexander for Oxford in the 1960s.

Steve Thomas, of Oxford, won the battle of the captains against David Watson, captain of the top match in the middle of the pack, Adrian Barrett-Greene gained many admirers with his cool and accurate play, but was greened by a hole-in-one by Leigh who handed him the first three holes.

Neil Royan, of Cambridge, played steadily in the fourth match to draw away from Alan Brown.

Rogan won on the 33rd green where an eagle putt lipped the hole and he attributed his success to a change in putting style after finishing level for the first round.

Andy Edmond was eight up after 18 and dominated seven of Oxford's John Clark provided a late scare with four successive three holes before succumbing.

The victories by Oxford's last two men, Simon Wicky and Ian Lewis, came when the match was already in the bag for Cambridge.

RESULTS: Cambridge 8, Oxford 7. Singles (Cambridge 1st to 8th, Oxford 9th to 16th): 1. R. Randall (Cambridge) 68, 2. R. Tickle (Cambridge) 69, 3. C. Ramsey (Oxford) 70, 4. M. Foxon (Cambridge) 71, 5. B. Liversy (Oxford) 72, 6. S. Thomas (Oxford) 73, 7. A. Barrett-Greene (Oxford) 74, 8. D. Watson (Oxford) 75, 9. N. Royan (Cambridge) 76, 10. I. Lewis (Cambridge) 77, 11. S. Wicky (Cambridge) 78, 12. A. Brown (Oxford) 79, 13. B. Waitses (Cambridge) 80, 14. M. Foxon (Cambridge) 81, 15. R. Randall (Cambridge) 82, 16. R. Tickle (Cambridge) 83.

RESULTS: Head of the River, 1. ARA National 17:42.00, 2. Thames 17:43.00, 3. Isis 17:44.00, 4. Great Ouse 17:45.00, 5. Great Ouse 17:46.00, 6. Great Ouse 17:47.00, 7. Great Ouse 17:48.00, 8. Great Ouse 17:49.00, 9. Great Ouse 17:50.00, 10. Great Ouse 17:51.00, 11. Great Ouse 17:52.00, 12. Great Ouse 17:53.00, 13. Great Ouse 17:54.00, 14. Great Ouse 17:55.00, 15. Great Ouse 17:56.00, 16. Great Ouse 17:57.00, 17. Great Ouse 17:58.00, 18. Great Ouse 17:59.00, 19. Great Ouse 18:00.00, 20. Great Ouse 18:01.00, 21. Great Ouse 18:02.00, 22. Great Ouse 18:03.00, 23. Great Ouse 18:04.00, 24. Great Ouse 18:05.00, 25. Great Ouse 18:06.00, 26. Great Ouse 18:07.00, 27. Great Ouse 18:08.00, 28. Great Ouse 18:09.00, 29. Great Ouse 18:10.00, 30. Great Ouse 18:11.00, 31. Great Ouse 18:12.00, 32. Great Ouse 18:13.00, 33. Great Ouse 18:14.00, 34. Great Ouse 18:15.00, 35. Great Ouse 18:16.00, 36. Great Ouse 18:17.00, 37. Great Ouse 18:18.00, 38. Great Ouse 18:19.00, 39. Great Ouse 18:20.00, 40. 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